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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

ASIA



Thailand's police say that Iranians were targeting individuals in bomb plot.

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FOCUS



Why are so many Tibetans setting themselves on fire?

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LIFE & STYLE



Whitney Houston's funeral will be held at the church where she first sang as a child.

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Saipan regular gas now \$5.059

» Minimum wage earner needs to work an hour for gallon of gas

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan's cheapest gasoline blew past the psychological barrier of \$5 when Mobil Oil Marianas' regular unleaded gasoline shot up to \$5.059 a gallon on Tuesday night, and Shell Marianas was expected to follow suit last night.

The 15-cent increase on Tuesday night means that Saipan motorists are

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Two bicyclists pass by a price display at a Mobil service station in Garapan yesterday morning. Saipan's regular unleaded gasoline now matches the CNMI's minimum wage of \$5.05 an hour following a gas price hike of 9 to 15 cents a gallon.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

As the investigation into the killing of bartender Emerita Relata Romero enters its second week, family members and relatives are now worried that the case may end up on the long list of unsolved homicides in the Commonwealth.



Romero

A relative told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that family members in the Philippines are now starting to wonder why there has been no arrest when the body had already been found.

The relative, who asked not to be identified, said that Romero's brother and sister, who both work on Saipan, are hoping the police will give them a little bit more information so they can explain

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At least 6 lawmakers in Taiwan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

At least six lawmakers are currently in Taiwan for a trip paid for by a Taiwanese investor, while Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is on his way to Los Angeles, California where he would join U.S. Vice President

Joe Biden, Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping, and California Gov. Edmund G.

» Fitial to join Biden, Chinese VP in LA before going to DC

Brown in a roundtable discussion before heading for Washington, D.C. for the National Governors Association Winter

Meeting.

China's Xi, who is on a five-day visit

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LEARNING GARDEN

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, right, and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, left, join Dandan Elementary School students plant tomato seedlings at the newly launched Learning Garden at the school yesterday. The Learning Garden is the latest green initiative of Tan Holdings as a means to teach children the importance of agriculture.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

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Guam ex-convict guilty of 1 charge, not guilty of 3 others. **PAGE 3**
Customs: Nearly 5,000 cartons of smuggled cigarettes. **PAGE 4**



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Local

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan join Dandan Elementary School students, teachers, and other Tan Holdings executives in the launch of the green initiative, Learning Garden, yesterday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



LEARNING GARDEN: Planting the seeds of food sustainability, healthy living

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Dandan Elementary School students will soon be able to harvest the own fruits and vegetables, thanks to Tan Holdings, which unveiled yesterday its latest “green initiative” that promotes food sustainability, nutrition awareness, and environmental stewardship among public school students.

Dubbed as the “Learning Garden,” this initiative is patterned after school learning gardens in the U.S. where public and private groups partner with schools and communities to create gardens that would provide students with hands-on learning, teaching them how to grow their own crops and much more.

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan led company executives in launching Learning Garden at Dandan Elementary School, where three small plots will soon be home to tomatoes, onions, corn, and, possibly, other produce in the near future.

The same project will be introduced to two more public schools, Oleai and Garapan elementary schools, in the coming weeks.

“We’re just glad that Tan Holdings is able to partner with PSS in looking for initiatives to teach children to do something different and help them learn to become good corporate citizens when they grow up,” Tan told his audience.

Yesterday’s event was also attended by school officials and staff, students, parents, and representatives of partner agencies such as the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance and the Northern Marianas College – Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service.

Tan said the Learning Garden is a different kind of initiative as it will have a significant impact among the students by teaching them the value of farming in the community which, in turn, may develop in some of them the desire to pursue a career in agriculture.

Tan noted that Saipan relies “too much” on imports and that people should look into farming the vast agricultural lands on island or even begin in a small way by creating a small garden in their own backyard.

“I think it’ll be great to see farming become a very important part of our community and we rely less on import, which is costly,” he added.

NMC-CREES director Ross Manglona first demonstrated to the fourth grade students under the class of Jonathan Ulrich the proper way of planting and car-

ing for the plants. Tan and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan then joined the children in planting tomato saplings.

“The students should recognize the great opportunity to learn something as important as agriculture which is a big part of our lives. Learn from the teachers and agriculture experts and look forward to the final product that you’re able to grow and be proud of the efforts you put in,” said Tan.

Sablan, for her part, disclosed that the Public School System had a vegetable garden project before she came on board in 2008. The project, however, was discontinued due to lack of funding.

“With the support and the partnership with Tan Holdings, we will now be able to again revive the learning garden that allows many of our kids to learn about vegetables, fruits, and farming,” Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*, describing the project as “excellent” and “something that we are going to forever remember.”

The fourth graders themselves had the chance to be a part of the launching of the initiative as they planted some onions and corn seeds.

“I’m very excited because this is my first time to plant something,” said April Lynn Chipwelong, 10.

Nine-year-old Koby Santos, who helps in gardening chores at their house, said he will regularly check the onion he planted yesterday.

“I would tell my classmates and the other students to take care of this garden,” he added.

Ulrich said the Learning Garden will not only teach the students to care and nurture the plants but it will also instill in them accountability. “Thank you for making this dream a reality.”

For school principal Martha Kintol, the unveiling of the Learning Garden is a beginning of a great thing not just for Dandan Elementary School but for other schools as well.

“It’s a learning garden and children are not only going to learn skills in planting but other life-long skills,” she said.

Tan urged other businesses to sponsor a school so that Learning Garden will reach the rest of public schools in the CNMI. For just \$600, a company will be able to help one school develop a garden.

“We’re inviting other companies in the community to sign up and be a part of this program,” he said.

For more information, call 235-2769 or 8747.

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Guam ex-convict guilty of 1 charge, not guilty of 3 charges

A 49-year-old Guam ex-convict accused of impregnating a minor girl on Rota was found guilty of one count of travel with intent to engage in illicit

sexual conduct by federal jury Tuesday.

The 12 jurors, however, found Melvin David Diaz not guilty of three counts of entice-

ment of a minor.

The jurors handed their note to U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood at

12:53pm about their unanimous verdict. The jurors began deliberations on Monday.

Judge Tydingco-Gatewood set the sentencing for May 14,

2012, at 10am.

Tydingco-Gatewood was to decide yesterday, Wednesday, Diaz's request to hold the sentencing in Guam.

Assistant U.S. attorney Clyde Lemons Jr. said he has no prob-

lem with that.

According to the indictment, between Aug. 1, 2010, and Sept. 30, 2010, Diaz traveled from Guam to the CNMI for the purpose of engaging in illicit sex with the minor. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

406 NMC students eligible for NMI Scholarship awards

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

More than 400 students enrolled at the Northern Marianas College are eligible to receive financial assistance from the

CNMI Scholarship Office this spring 2012 semester.

In her report to the Board of Regents on Tuesday, NMC president Sharon Y. Hart said that of the 406 students eligible to avail of this assistance,

only five will be awarded grants under the Honors scholarship while 401 will receive aid under education assistance program or EAP.

The two programs, administered by the NMI Scholarship

Office, are open to both on- and off-island students.

Hart also reported that of the EAP scholars, 375 students will receive \$600 each, while eight will receive \$340 to \$588 each. Honors scholars receive between \$1,956 and \$5,981 per semester.

Hart shared that the Department of Finance has already transferred into NMC's account \$236,376 for recipients of the NMI Scholarship Office. The disbursed amount was half of the requested disbursement of \$472,753 from NMC and covers the scholars of fall 2011 semester.

The NMI Scholarship Office was approved a \$2 million budget this fiscal year, of which \$1.1 million will go to NMC scholars—both Honors and EAP—while the remaining balance will pay for the financial assistance of off-island scholars.

There were nearly 1,700 new and renewable applications deemed eligible by the CNMI Scholarship Office this spring 2012 semester, a figure slightly higher compared to the 1,558 applications in the spring 2011 semester.

Manglona dismisses Mayor Flores' claims against 2 banks

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The federal court yesterday granted First Hawaiian Bank's motion to dismiss all causes of action filed by Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores, who is seeking the return of his Time Certificate Deposit in the amount of \$200,000 that he allegedly purchased in 1993.

In the same order, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed with prejudice Flores' claims against Union Bank of California (UBC) for unjust enrichment and gross negligence. Manglona also dismissed without prejudice the mayor's claims for breach of fiduciary duty and fraud against UBC.

The judge dismissed with prejudice Flores' claims of unjust enrichment and gross negligence against First Hawaiian Bank (FHB). She dismissed without prejudice the mayor's all other claims against the bank.

Dismissal with prejudice means the case cannot be reopened. Dismissal without prejudice allows plaintiff to re-file a new suit on the same claim/s.

Flores is suing the two banks for allegedly refusing to return the principal and interest earned of a Time Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$200,000 that he purchased from the then Union Bank Saipan Branch in 1993.

Flores is suing the banks for breach of contract, unjust enrichment, negligence or gross negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, and fraud.

On Nov. 15, 2001, Union Bank reportedly sold all assets and liabilities of its Saipan branch office to FHB.

FHB then moved to dismiss the lawsuit. UBC joined in the motion to dismiss.

Manglona heard the motion last Dec. 22 and then placed the matter under advisement.

In her order issued yesterday, Manglona determined that Flores has failed to state a claim for breach of fiduciary contract against FHB.

Manglona said the claim of unjust enrichment cannot be sustained against UBC.

Furthermore, the judge said, the claim against FHB fails both for this same reason and because Flores has not pled suf-

ficient facts to show that FHB received a benefit.

On gross-negligence claims, Manglona said the CNMI has not recognized an independent cause of action for gross negligence.

Therefore, she said, gross-negligence claims against the two banks cannot be maintained.

As to the issue of breach of fiduciary duty, Manglona said because the general rule is that no fiduciary relationship exists between a bank and a depositor, and Flores has not pled facts showing that a special fiduciary duty arose, the claim of breach of fiduciary duty against the two banks must be dismissed.

On fraud issue, Manglona said the mayor's claim of fraud against both banks is inadequately pled.

Ex-convict arrested again for 'ice'

Police arrested Tuesday noon an ex-convict who was allegedly found last month in possession of methamphetamine or "ice" at a secluded beach in Susupe.

Joseph A. Crisostimo, 38, was arrested for illegal possession of controlled substance and contempt of court.

In issuing the arrest warrant, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo found probable cause only on the possession of "ice" and contempt of court charges.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho found probable cause to deem Crisostimo's arrest as justified.

Camacho appointed the Office of Public Defender to represent the defendant and imposed a \$31,000 cash bail for his temporary release.

Preliminary hearing will be

on Feb. 23, 2012 at 9am.

Testifying for the prosecution, police detective Steven Castro stated that two police officers were conducting a routine patrol at a secluded beach site in Susupe on Jan. 11 at 3:18am when they saw a white car with license plate ACN-712. The officers approached the vehicle and met with the occupants: Crisostimo and John Namauleg.

One of the officers saw a clear glass pipe with residue in the back seat. The officers searched the vehicle and allegedly recovered Ziploc baggies as well as a cut off straw.

The officers then arrested the two suspects.

Castro said that on Tuesday he and another detective spoke to Namauleg, who admitted that Crisostimo picked him up in Afetnas last Jan. 11.

Castro said that, according to

Namauleg, they went to As Lito where Crisostimo purchased "ice" and then proceeded to a beach in Susupe to smoke the drugs.

At this time, the two officers came and arrested them.

Castro said that on Tuesday he and another detective tested the residue in the clear glass pipe and found the presence of "ice."

The detective said that Crisostimo is still on probation in a previous case. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Customs: Nearly 5,000 cartons of smuggled cigarettes

» Yumul seeks to auction off items, except 'counterfeit' products

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Customs Director Jesus Muña said yesterday that customs inspectors counted a total of almost 5,000 cartons of smuggled cigarettes, many of which were

hidden beneath potato chips or crackers in boxes shipped from the Philippines, more than doubling the initial count of over 2,000 cartons.

The CNMI government would have lost almost \$100,000 in excise tax had the Customs Services Division not dis-

covered these undeclared cigarettes.

Each carton of cigarette is taxed \$20.

Muña said the inspection of the contents of a 20-foot container was completed at past 5pm on Tuesday.

"It's almost 5,000 when they finished inspection. It took a while to in-

spect the whole container. They had to count them [cigarette cartons] piece by piece," Muña told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said the consignee, Pacific Jun Corp., a wholesaler, will be prosecuted and fined.

Customs, he added, has already referred the matter to the Office of the Attorney General.

This is the largest cigarette haul in recent CNMI history, said Customs officer John Paul Sablan, who has been with the division for 13 years.

The last time Customs seized a large volume of illegal cigarettes was in 2008, and that involved only over 350 cartons of illegal cigarettes from China.

Most of the cigarettes seized this week were Philippine-made Philip Morris and Marlboro that were labeled "for domestic use only" and "not for export," making them illegal to be brought to Saipan, besides being undeclared.

GAS

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now paying 35 cents more than what they used to pay at the start of the year because of three rounds of prices changes since January.

Saipan's super unleaded gasoline is now \$5.379 a gallon, up also by 15 cents.

Diesel, meanwhile, went up by 9 cents or from \$5.319 to \$5.409 a gallon.

CNMI gas prices are the highest in the United States where gas prices averaged \$3.477 a gallon on Tuesday, as well as among U.S. territories.

Guam prices also went up starting on Tuesday night, with regular gas now at \$4.879 a gallon.

For minimum wage workers in the CNMI, they have to work an hour for \$5.05 just to be able to buy a gallon of regular gas.

"There goes my hourly salary," said Edwin Santos, of Susupe, as he was buying gas for a company vehicle at the Mobil-Garapan service station yesterday morning.

Santos said his budget for gasoline has been slowly creeping up on his budget for food, other grocery items and for his four children.

"I might just start using a bicycle to go to work," the single father said.

Mobil and Shell do not issue explanations or advance notices about any price changes.

"It's going to be very hard for everyone, but it would be more painful for those who earn less. Those earning minimum wage of \$5.05 an hour need to work a full hour to buy a gallon of gas," said businessman Efrain

Customs said the only items declared in the invoice were chips or crackers, body soap, toothpaste, condiments such as soy sauce, and women's sanitary napkins.

Lawmakers called on the Fitial administration to restore the 80-hour workweek for customs inspectors, given the critical nature of their function.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), in a separate interview yesterday, said he is now working on legislation to auction off items that Customs confiscated, but items deemed counterfeit will be destroyed.

"Imprest fund will be created to cover salaries of customs employees," Yumul said, adding that he had discussed this with Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos a few years back, when Inos was still Finance secretary.

Customs' X-ray van also broke down, and would need \$30,000 to \$50,000 to repair. Without this X-ray van, customs officers have to manually inspect cargo at the seaport, which is time consuming and requires more inspectors.

Camacho, as he was buying gas at the Mobil-Garapan service station yesterday morning.

Camacho said while he has read in news forecasts that gas prices will increase, "I didn't think it's going to be this soon on Saipan."

Analysts said gas prices in the United States will go up in the summer, pointing to financial uncertainties in Europe and Iranian politics as threats to prices at the fuel pump.

"What's interesting too is that the rates go up quickly but if petroleum prices go down worldwide, prices here are slow to go down or not at all," Camacho added.

But he said "it takes the same number of personnel, the same type of vessel to deliver the fuel whether for a population of 40,000 or 400,000."

Camacho said that he and his wife monitor their son's car mileage and limit his gasoline allowance as one way to minimize their gas expenses.

For many Saipan motorists, they just want to close their eyes to ward off the pain at the pump.

"I'm surprised and disappointed," said another resident who could afford only \$5 for gas, less than a gallon. He said he didn't notice that the price went up from \$4.909 to \$5.059.

Alvin Alvarez, of Chalan Laulau, said a 15-cent increase in gas is just too much to bear these days when all other bills are also going up.

"We spend about \$50 a week for car gas, and that's not even full tank. With this 15-cent increase, our \$50 could buy much less fuel," the father of two said, adding that his household has been trying to limit vehicle use and tighten expenses on other things.

yet," he said. "For us, nine days are like one year already."

Romero's sister, Estrellita "Lhet" Relata, refused to comment yesterday.

The family has been planning to bring Romero's remains to Bulacan, the Philippines, this weekend for burial. But DPS Commissioner Ramon Mafnas said the remains can only be flown to the Philippines once all forensic evaluations are performed. Until now, Mafnas has refused to release the autopsy results to the media.

Romero was last seen boarding a green or blue tinted sedan around 3am on Feb. 5 in Garapan. FBI agents found her body two days later at the northernmost building of the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque.

Tinian delegation pushes anew for restoration of patients' free meal

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The four-member Tinian Legislative Delegation is again asking the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to restore the free meals for Tinian and Rota hemodialysis patients, saying that there are other areas where CHC could cut spending, including non-hiring of non-essential employees at this time.

The delegation is also requesting CHC to provide an "accurate description of [its] financial situation."

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said providing free meal to Tinian and Rota patients is a "miniscule obligation," which he estimates at \$50,000 a year that could be an equivalent of one employee's salary.

"We have a hard time believing that CHC does not have the money for the patients' meal when they continue to hire non-essential employees. We could understand if they are hiring doctors, but they continue to hire adminis-

trative employees," Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune*.

Hofschneider said after some Tinian officials made their formal request with CHC to restore the patients' free meal, the delegation also wrote a Feb. 7 letter asking the same.

"As of Feb. 15, we haven't received a response from CHC. They are still not restoring the free meal to these patients. These patients are not here by choice. If the services provided on Saipan are also provided on Tinian and Rota, they won't come here. Another thing we're concerned about is that CHC should continue to provide the meal because theirs is approved by nutritionists," he added.

Hofschneider, in his one-page letter to CHC chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta, said although the delegation is cognizant of CHC's financial situation, they are "disappointed" by its decision to stop providing meal service to Tinian and Rota patients.

"Furthermore, it is displeasing to

learn that while you have decided to cut this miniscule service and burden employees with austerity measures, you were still able to hire new employees and offer certain current employees a raise. These actions send a very confusing message to the Delegation and the [CNMI] Legislature, with whom you are requesting to assist CHC with its monetary problems," he told Babauta.

Babauta issued a memo stating that meal services and bottled water for Rota and Tinian medical referral patients staying at the guest house will be discontinued on Feb. 1, 2012, and these services may only resume if funding is made available.

CHC was not able to pay on time its non-essential employees on Friday, and Babauta asked the Legislature to immediately approve an \$11.58 million line of credit bill that will help CHC with its finances until it gets back on its feet. The House passed the bill on Monday, but the Senate won't have a session until Feb. 23.

TAGS, a turtle conservation non-profit group, will be hosting the Candyland Party at Godfather's Bar on Feb. 24 at 7:30pm. The group is taking inspiration from the Hasbro classic Candyland for what's sure to be the best party around! Enjoy prizes, silent auction, "crowd favorite" date auction and more as throngs of costumed merrymakers party the night away in blue, purple, and cotton candy! Five dollars gets you in the door for cheap drinks and good times. Come in costume (or not), bring cash for the auction, and prepare your liver for Candyland Saipan 2012! (PR)

How to Train Your Dragon is a 2010 action fantasy film by DreamWorks Animation loosely based on the English 2003 book of the same name. The story takes place in a mythical Viking world where a young Viking teenager named Hiccup aspires to follow his tribe's tradition of becoming a dragon slayer. After finally capturing his first dragon, and with his chance at finally gaining the tribe's acceptance, he finds that he no longer has the desire to kill it and instead befriends it. (PR)

As sweet as Candyland!

Only at least the House speaker issued an off-island notice.

Cabrera's memo indicated that he will be off island on official business from Feb. 15 to 19. He designated Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogunoro (R-Saipan) as acting speaker while he's off island. But the speaker did not mention where he's going and the purpose of his trip.

Another lawmaker said the Office of the Public Auditor should "step in and investigate the matter," considering that a foreign investor paid for the trip, hotel accommodation, and other expenses of CNMI lawmakers to go to Taiwan.

"This is not right. Their trip raises ethical questions, conflict of interest. No foreign corporation should pay for CNMI government officials' trips and no government official should accept those offers of free trips. When time comes and these lawmakers have to make decisions concerning these investors, they would be in conflict of interest," said one of the lawmakers not among those who left for Taiwan.

Fitial and other officials' US trips

Fitial left for Los Angeles, Calif., at the

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Marianas Sailing Club notice

The free sailing lessons that are normally conducted near the beach close to the Micro intersection will be moved to Tinian this Saturday, Feb. 18. The following Saturday the sailing lessons will return to their normal location and time. (PR)

Free movie at AMP on Friday

Come to the American Memorial Park on Friday, Feb. 17, 2012, for a free movie screening of *How to Train Your Dragon*, starting at 6:30pm at the Amphitheater.

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

to the United States, is expected to become the next president of China and the next Communist Party leader.

Fitial left on Valentine's Day along with press secretary Angel Demapan.

Meanwhile, the three CNMI senators led by Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) left days ago for Manila, before heading for Taiwan where they would meet up with three House members led by Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) who left yesterday.

The six lawmakers who left for Taiwan are Manglona, Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), Cabrera, Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), according to other lawmakers and at least one memo.

One of the House members also invited to the all-expense paid trip as early as last year, Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), said yesterday he declined the invitation, and said his focus is on doing things here on Saipan.

Other lawmakers said yesterday they are disappointed that their colleagues kept their Taiwan trip a secret.

Wilshire on island this month; Buck Consultant in March

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Wilshire Associates, the former investment consultant of the NMI Retirement Fund, will be on island before end of the month to formalize its new agreement with the pension agency and start working on

the contract's deliverables, according to board chair Sixto K. Igisomar.

This comes after the two parties agreed to the terms and conditions of the new agreement, which pays the consultant a lower fee—from \$196,000 to \$165,000 annually.

Igisomar told *Saipan Tribune*

yesterday that Wilshire principals will discuss with the board its immediate recommendations on the agency's portfolio, which was valued at \$255.7 million as of Jan. 31, with \$105 million in CDARS and \$145 million in mutual funds.

Saipan Tribune learned that Wilshire's contract was sent

to the company last week following a review by the Office of the Attorney General. The board then immediately stopped the liquidation of its assets and transfer to CDARS, or certificate of deposit account registry service.

Igisomar, meantime, disclosed that the contract for Buck

Consultants—the agency's actuarial consultant—was sent to the firm yesterday.

"Assuming everything [about these contracts] went well, we're expecting both of our consultants to be onboard soon," said Igisomar, adding that the Fund is scheduled to meet Buck officials next month.

Both Buck Consultants and Wilshire terminated their contracts with the Fund after the passage of the Beneficiaries' Derivative Act last year, which increased their risk of being sued. That law has since been repealed.

Buck started working for the Fund in 2007 while Wilshire was hired in October 2010.

Igisomar said yesterday that the board approved a slight

increase in its contract with the actuarial consultant—from \$52,000 annually to \$59,000—due to the actuary's increase in their hourly rates since the last contract.

For the board consultant, Igisomar said the final contract offered to Heinz Hofschneider has yet to be signed but he expects this to be finalized "very soon." Hofschneider was hired by the board for \$70,000 per year to assist the trustees in identifying solutions to the current problems of the pension agency.

Meantime, the board put on hold the hiring of money managers until Wilshire is on board. The Fund's money managers had also left because of the impact of the derivative law.

WWII vet 'more than overwhelmed' by plaque, medallion

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

World War II veteran Richard Caldwell Urie said yesterday that the plaque and medallion presented him on Saturday by CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and Rep. John Tierney (D-MA) in Peabody, Massachusetts, were not only an honor for himself but for all who served in the Pacific theater during the war and especially those who participated in the liberation of Saipan and Tinian.

"Overwhelmed is not even a big enough word to express the feeling I had, upon receiving the plaque and the medallion," said the 86-year-old Urie in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Urie said one important fact for all the veterans is that the liberation of Saipan eventually resulted in the Northern Marianas becoming a part of the United States.

"What better conclusion could we ask for," said Urie, who served as a radio operator with the U.S. Marines during the war.

Urie's identification tag, which was lost during the war and found in a yam field on Saipan in 1981, was flown from the island to Massachusetts where it was finally returned to him last month.

Mike Villagomez, a PE teacher at ChaCha Junior High,

found the tag in 1981. Randy Kruid, a U.S. special investigator deputy marshal assigned at the Saipan office, was the one who traced Urie through the Internet in November 2011. Villagomez and his wife, Erlinda, handed the dog tag to assistant U.S. attorney Timothy E. Moran, who was then going back to Boston after a vacation on Saipan. Moran and his family gave the dog tag to Urie on Jan. 9 (Saipan time) at Urie's retirement compound, Brooksby Village in Peabody.

The Saipan VFW Post 3457 and the 60th Anniversary Commemoration Committee bestowed the plaque and medallion on Urie.

About 60 of Urie's fellow veterans were on hand at Brooksby Retirement Village, when Sablan and Tierney delivered the plaque and medallion to Urie on Saturday.

For himself and his family, Urie said this honor will be cherished and passed on to later generations as part of their heritage.

"Your history is now a part of my history. I take great pride in being part of The Saipan Legend," he said.

Urie would love to come back to Saipan but his age and medical disabilities prohibit him to do so. He conveyed his gratitude to all the people responsible for the award, especially

the VFW.

"You all have brought much happiness to an 86-year-old ex-Marine who in his wildest imagination would never have envisioned what has transpired," Urie said.

He said the presentation made by Reps. Sablan and Tierney was particularly fitting as it

took place at Brooksby Village Retirement Community, where there are many retired servicemen, some of which fought in the battle of Saipan.

"The pride this ceremony brought to them was very evident. The ceremony brought back memories long forgotten over the years and more cherished now than they ever were," Urie said.



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Condition of Tinian harbor still poor, limiting deliveries

» Emergency repair set for completion in June 2012

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Eight months after an emergency was declared, nothing has been done to rectify the poor condition of the Tinian harbor, according to Tinian airport and seaport manager Joseph Mendiola.

He said the earliest completion date for the emergency repair of the Tinian harbor is in June 2012. The initial tar-

get completion date was end of 2011.

It was discovered in July last year that four major bollards at the Tinian harbor were ready to collapse, a situation that would hamper the operation of the island because it will render the harbor incapable to accommodate bigger shipments such as fuel tankers.

A bollard is a short, thick post on the deck of a ship or on a wharf to which a ship's rope

may be secured.

As of last week, Mendiola said the bollards and fenders have already been ordered and once delivered, will be installed both at the harbor and at the seawall, which also needs replacement.

Mendiola told *Saipan Tribune* that shipments of Mobil Oil's fuel tanker are still being hampered by the harbor's condition and is presently doing minimal shipment based on the capabil-

ity of the existing bollards.

The harbor's emergency repair had an initial \$500,000 budget sourced from the aborted instrument landing system project, which at that time had \$3.2 million in CIP funds. Since the cancellation of ILS project, these monies were moved to other Tinian projects, of which \$500,000 was allocated for the harbor. This amount includes the design, assessment, installation of four new bollards, and removal of the harbor fender.

Mendiola disclosed that after deducting the cost for architectural and engineering design for the project, the funds left for the actual repair was about \$425,000.

Because biddings that came in were higher than this budget, an additional of about \$270,000 was again reprogrammed for the harbor. The total cost for the project is now at \$700,000, ac-

cording to Mendiola.

He said the harbor needs at least three strong bollards to hold bigger vessels. He said the existing bollards are still being used for small shipments. He believes that as long as the poor condition of the harbor exists, people on Tinian will be paying for higher fuel prices because of the additional operation costs factored into the price.

Musician donates \$1K to Mount Carmel, Make A Wish

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Local musician John Aldan Ichihara donated on Monday a percentage of his sales of his Christmas album that he recorded with his daughter, Roselle Ichihara Carreon.

Ichihara and Carreon presented a \$500 check each to Mount Carmel Cathedral and the Make A Wish Foundation.

Ichihara's Island Family Productions produced and released *Kantan Niñu: Season's Greetings Here Again*, which features 10 Christmas songs in English and Chamorro.

"I want to give back to the community and this is one way of using my talent," Ichihara, who has been a musician for over 40 years, told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

Ichihara, who made a donation last year to the NMI Japan Disaster Relief following the March tsunami and earthquake, said he chose the Make A Wish Foundation to be the recipient because he likes what they are doing to make children's wishes come true.

He also selected the Mount



Local musician John Aldan Ichihara, left, and his daughter Roselle Ichihara Carreon present the \$500 check to Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez at the Mount Carmel Cathedral office last Monday.

Carmel Cathedral as a recipient since he helped another church, the San Vicente Church, last year.

"I wanted to donate more but it's hard when people don't buy the CD so we thank everybody in the community who helped us. We really appreciate them going out of their way despite the economic conditions of the island. A very big thank you from the bottom of our hearts," said Ichihara.



Make A Wish Foundation Saipan board member Angela Yamashita-Santos, second right, receives the \$500 donation from local musician John Aldan Ichihara, second left, and his daughter Roselle Ichihara Carreon, right. Also in photo is Carreon's son, Jose.

Carreon, a teacher at Oleai Elementary School, said the Christmas album was a way for her and her father to share with the rest of the community the bond they have through music.

"I love my dad so much and he's given me the gift of music. I wanted to help my dad fulfill his dream and I truly support him," she said.

A member of the San Vicente choir, Carreon believes that music is a universal language that unites people together. "It's a way of expressing ourselves and being able to touch someone else," she added.

Carreon also expressed her appreciation to all those who bought their CD and allowed them to donate to worthy causes.

"With everything that's happening in our economy right now, the purpose of this CD is not to make money but to share the music," she said. "Thank you to everyone who's listened

to it and enjoyed it."

Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez thanked Ichihara for "using one's talent for God's greater glory."

"We really appreciate the gesture," said Jimenez, adding that the donation will be added to the funds they have so far raised for the overall maintenance of the cathedral.

Angela Yamashita-Santos, Saipan board member of the Make A Wish Foundation, also expressed her gratitude to the Ichihara family.

"It's with the good hearts of the people who donate to our organization that we're able to grant the wishes of our children with life-threatening illnesses and make their lives a little bit happier, a little bit sweeter," she said.

Ichihara disclosed that he has plans to record all his original songs in one greatest hits album, the proceeds for which will also be donated to another organization.

While fishing regulations in the Commonwealth are being enforced, the CNMI Division of Fish & Wildlife has to deal with work limitations in its efforts to protect the Commonwealth's fishery resources.

Speaking at the Saipan Rotary Club meeting on Tuesday, fisheries biologist Michael Tenorio said that Fish & Wildlife has formed partnerships with organizations such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, which provide funding and technical assistance that aid the agency in its goal to maintain sustainable levels of fish stocks.

"You got to understand that we're also working within our limitations and we try to do what we can to improve those avenues in trying to enforce regulations," Tenorio told Rotarians at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's restaurant.

According to Tenorio, the CNMI has four types of fisheries: pelagic fishery covers species like tuna, wahoo, mahi, and marlin; bottom fishery is composed of onaga, ehu, lehi, kalikali, opaka paka, emperor, matai, and sas; coral reef fishery consists of emperor, parrotfish, surgeonfish, snappers, goatfish, rabbitfish, jacks, groupers, mullets, wrasse, and reef invertebrates such as octopus, squids,

cuttlefish, clams, and lobsters; and the deep water invertebrates like Kona crab and Heterocarpus shrimp.

Maintaining sustainable levels of fish stocks, Tenorio said, require restrictions on gear and methods of harvest, spatial restrictions, collection of fishery and biological data, conducting fishery independent surveys, and data analyses.

Tenorio said that in 2004, they conducted a food fish survey on the southern part of the Saipan Lagoon, followed by a re-survey in 2007 to determine if any changes occurred in food fish abundance.

Surveys conducted involved 125 randomly selected points between Garapan and Aguiñan points using belt transect and stationary point count survey methods.

The surveys generally revealed that there was an increase in the number of fish observed, with the SPC survey also showing an increase in fish biomass.

Tenorio noted, though, that there is a need to consider and assess each species or family of fish for a more thorough study.

He also pointed out that their study is "not directly related" to the study spearheaded by Dr. Peter Houk of the Pacific Marine Resources Institute. "We have communicated with Dr. Houk and we've shared some of our concerns," said Tenorio, adding that they are looking at working together to address the issues.



Tenorio



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

- I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption on Minutes: November 3, 2011 Regular Board Meeting (revised) November 21, 2011 Regular Board Meeting (revised) December 27, 2011 Regular Board Meeting
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. **CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
 - a. USDA RD Update
 - b. ESG Comments
 - c. FY 2011 Audit Update
 - d. HUD CPD Grant Amounts
 - e. Garapan Annex RFP
 - f. NMIRF Loan Portfolio Sale
 - g. Garapan Ponding Basin Clean Up with CRM
- IV. **MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAM**
 - a. RD Update
 - b. HOME Program Loans For Approval
 - c. February, 7 & 14 Auctions Update
 - d. Lot 001 C 57 Bid Offer
 - e. Other Loan Matters
- V. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**
 - a. CDBG Update
 - b. Section 108 Analysis
- VI. **PROGRAM & HOUSING**
 - a. Utility Allowance Update
 - b. Purchase of additional Government Vehicle for TMD
- VII. **FISCAL AFFAIRS**
 - a. Unaudited Financial Statement as of January 30, 2012
- VIII. **FIELD REPORT**
 - a. Tinian Field Office Reports
 - b. Rota Field Office Reports
- IX. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- X. **OTHER MATTERS**
 - a. Ground Maintenance for Tottotville's Common Area (Entrance Only)
 - b. Second Burglary of NMHC's Two Storage Rooms
- XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy birthday greetings go out to Michael Nishimura! We love you and hope you enjoy your day! From your wife Deanna and your daughters Kynalynn and Mickeanna.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy birthday to IG Kamiya Nicole Nosa Obnimag! We hope you had a wonderful birthday and many more to come! We love you, from your Mommy Grace, Daddy Ian, and baby brother Zian.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Board emphasizes importance of procedures, trainings for regents

» Student council president airs communication concerns

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College Board of Regents chair Juan T. Lizama underscored the importance of trainings and workshops for all its members—both voting and honorary regents—to make sure that everybody is fully aware not only of their roles but proper procedures as well.

This developed as honorary member Associated Students of NMC president Lawrence E. Camacho submitted a report on Tuesday wherein he indicated several concerns he labeled as “communication issues” with NMC president Sharon Y. Hart.

Camacho enumerated in his three-page report the various instances where he felt he was “unfairly” treated by management by conducting meetings without the representation of the student body.

But in exchanges of email correspondences between college officials and Camacho, the particular meeting he alluded to was for members of the president’s management team who were called on short notice and does not include the ASNMC president.

On Jan. 24, a joint legislative meeting was held on campus where Camacho shared with lawmakers a copy of a position paper that he said was from ASNMC. This document highlighted the views and opinions of the ASNMC on several pending legislation that affect the college. In that position paper, five of the eight proposed legis-

lation related to NMC were opposed by the student group.

Lizama on Tuesday questioned Camacho if he followed proper procedures when he submitted the position paper to the Legislature without first seeking the management or board’s recommendation on the issues it identified. Lizama admitted being surprised upon learning about the position paper.

“Personally, I think it is proper that you are providing us this report [today]. Because we



Lizama



Hart

won’t stop you from telling the truth, but my question is: Is this something yourself as president can handle with due care?” he asked Camacho, pointing out that procedures and policies are in place to deal with such concerns. Lizama said even “small issues” may affect NMC’s accreditation status.

Meantime, Lizama encouraged Hart’s office to keep an “open line of communication” with all governance bodies, most especially the students’ group. He also recommended that Hart attend some type of seminar about Pacific island culture and practices to help her in the effective management of the college.

The chair reiterated the importance of working together and focusing on the most important concern at NMC: its accreditation, which it must reaffirmed by October this year.

Hart assured the board that NMC has internal policies and procedures that are in place and that she will continue working closely with all governance councils to accomplish the college’s missions and goals.

Sagan Hinemlo’ Family Clinic opens

Sagan Hinemlo’ Family Clinic, LLC is now open to meet the health needs of the people of the CNMI. With aspirations to provide quality health care services, it is a pleasure to reach out and serve the community in a special way through the healing touch of health care.

Within the health care arena of Marianas Health, LLC, Sagan Hinemlo’ Family Clinic integrates and joins other unique health care services. These services include the Diabetes Self-Management Training Program, Pacific Wellness Center providing outpatient physical therapy as well as exercise/fitness classes, and Marianas Home Care and Hospice. Visit their website at www.marianashealth.com and take an online tour of these excellent services.

Sagan Hinemlo’ Family Clinic is located in San Jose in

the Marianas Health Building along Ghiyeghi Street adjacent to Morgan building. At this time, Sagan Hinemlo’ Family Clinic is providing comprehensive woman and prenatal health care services as well as routine physical and wellness exams for male clients. For more information about their services, call the clinic at 233-4646.

“It is our mission to provide high quality health care to the community using a holistic approach in caring for the mind, body, and spirit. As health care providers, in good stewardship with our gifts, we will empower and educate the members of the community to adopt and live healthy lifestyles to promote a healthy mind, body, and spirit. In doing so, we desire to share the love and healing power of faith in Jesus Christ,” the clinic said in a statement yesterday. (PR)



Position Vacancy Announcement

Position: Vice President/General Manager (1)

Qualifications: Must have 10 years experience managing full service 36 hole golf course, experience in developing and marketing and coordinating marketing strategies, knowledge of business management practices of golf course operation and hotel operation, assignment and projects for the golf course, maintain and grow membership and customer by promptly handling member and guest concerns and issues, ensure open communication and high visibility to members and guest by conducting daily walk through of the club, generate revenue by acting as sales manager for the entire golf club and resort, expand sales by initiating and monitoring effectiveness of monthly promotions, demand managements and demand creation strategies.

Position: Executive Chef (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years experience and training in culinary cooking and have graduated from a Culinary School, accounts for the management and supervision of kitchen staff and cooks, provides a consistently high quality of food product services to guests and customers, ensure that meals are produced, presented and served to the highest possible standards, monitors materials, supplies and equipment needs, ensure staff uphold and maintain current standards of hygiene and safety, ensure the kitchen maintains a high level of sanitary conditions in accordance with and all applicable laws, statutes, and policies, communicate with staff in order to facilitate and conduct a team approach, monitor food trend and incorporate new styles and ideas to fulfill customer demands and needs.

Position: Assistant Chef, Korean Cuisine (1)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years in the preparation of Korean food, will be involved in Korean menu development, inventory, ordering/purchasing, food cost control, training, personnel management such as coaching, complies to all applicable Sanitation Codes, ensure efficient, safe and sanitary food production, preparation, presentation and knowledgeable of Korean food trends with focus on quality, experience in large catering or banquet functions, excellent communication skills in Korean and basic English to understand and follow recipe, able to communicate on all levels, including management, departmental and customer.

Position: Chef de Partie (1)

Qualifications: 7 Years of cooking experience and training, responsible for the creation of high quality dishes, able to work independently, cooks consistently and enthusiastically on a high level, helps create and cook to perfection seasonal and including a five course modern gourmet menu, small selection of signature a la carte dishes, cooks and prepares for each meal service, controls incoming goods and stores food, vegetables, fruits, staple in a perfect conditions, guest oriented and able to converse with the clients, actively attends wine and general trainings, team building events and supplier visits to learn about local product, has fun cooking, is a sociable person, likes to work as a teamwork, and respects and actively works with colleagues.

Position: Chief Cook (1)

Qualifications: Minimum of 5 years of experience and training, knowledge of standards of food preparation, serves, and observes kitchen procedures, experience in kitchen management, train kitchen staff, monitoring and assessing performance of the kitchen staff to make improvements or take corrective action, direct the preparation, seasoning, and cooking of food, determine how food should be presented and create decorative food displays, ensure timely delivery of services, estimate amounts and costs of required supplies, instruct cook and other kitchen staff in the preparation, cooking, garnishing and presentation of food, monitor sanitation practices to ensure that employees follow standards and regulations.

Position: Cook (6)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years of experience and training, prepares or directs preparation of foods according to prescribed menus and recipes, takes inventory of supplies on hand and orders food supplies, ingredients and other consumables on a schedules basis as determined by menu and estimated number of customers, cleans and sanitizes all food preparation equipment and ensures that it is kept in safe and operable condition, knowledge of methods, materials, and practices of volume food preparation, sanitary methods used in food preparation.

Position: Assistant Manager, Food & Beverage Department (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of working experience and training. Must have supervisory experience and training preferably in hotel and resort facilities, have experienced for all food and beverage services including banquet catering, bar/grill, dining restaurant, and outside beverage carts, must have cost control of all food and beverage outlets by helping in overseeing the purchasing of food, maintains effective inventory and shortage controls, work with the Executive Chef to develop an annual food and beverage plan and budget, ensure successful operation of special events, banquets, rentals, coordinates the delivery for all food and beverage service to the customer at the highest guest standard, supervise staff and operational during shift, ensure all of the services provided are immediate need of the customer, maintain and develop a dedicated team providing the highest quality of service and addresses all staffing issues in a fair and timely manner.

Position: Wait staff (Waiter/Waitress) (5)

Qualifications: 2 years experience and training, must have preferably worked at a hotel or tourism industry, ability to listen to and understand through spoken words and sentences, ability to arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern, communicating with Supervisors, peers, or subordinates, handling and moving of objects, judging the qualities of things, services, or people, performing general physical activities, talking to others to convey information effectively, acting listening and service orientated.

Position: Kitchen Helper (2)

Qualifications: Must have 3 years of working experience, must be familiar with the dynamics of a professional kitchen is a plus, willingness to learn, time and space management skills, physical stamina, a friendly temperament, a desire to help out where needed and the ability to foster the creation and maintenance of a cohesive team, assist cooks, keep kitchen clean, perform a variety of food preparation task, assist with food and beverage service, receive and store supplies, sweeps and mops floors, segregates and removes trash and garbage and places, hoses out garbage container, washes pots, pans, trays by hand, scrapes food from dirty dishes and washes them by hand or place them in racks.

Position: Assistant Manager, Front Office (1)

Qualifications: Must have 2 years of experienced and training in the field of hotel and golf resort operation, must be organized, neat and professional appearance, pleasant, tactful and patient, able to communicate well with a wide variety of people, committed to providing good service, enjoyed dealing with people, ability to direct and control the activities of the Front Office, Reservations, deal with customer complaints, knowledge of a second language is a plus (write, read, and speak) computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications, and superior written and oral communications skills, ability to respond properly and take a supervisory role in any hotel emergency or safety situation.

Position: Korean Concierge (1)

Qualification: 3 years of experienced and training, must have worked in a hotel or tourism industry, communicate directly with guests, both in person and by telephone, provides information on facilities to Korean speaking guest at the golf & resort, provide information and services in Korean, must be able to offer the Korean guest in any number of special circumstances, good communication skills in Korean language is vitally important, provides all the information that the guest needs to enjoy their stay, good problem solving skills, good organizational skills, must be trained and experienced in tourism or hospitality managements, excellent customer service skills.

Position: Supervisor, Japan Sales & Marketing (2)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years experienced and training in marketing strategy for the Japanese market, must be fluent in the Japanese language as well as to read and write, experienced contacting and selling to Corporate level executives, experienced in Sales and Marketing most especially in the Japan markets, built and managed a network of marketing and selling Hotel and Golf product

and services, possess innovative business promotional and advertising activities, strong negotiating skills, knowledgeable of the Japanese customers needs, have strong demonstrations skills, must work with management team to create sales and marketing plans that includes to identify and target Japan Markets, identify potential Japanese clients.

Position: Supervisor Pro Shop (1)

Qualifications: Must have 3 years of supervisory experienced and training, able to lead, direct and motivate the sales team in order to achieve sales objectives, identifies appropriate business targets, provides a professional and excellent level of customer service with existing and new customers, supervises scheduled shift, completes all assigned duties, supervises sale associates, ensure that all employees adhere to company policies and procedures, knowledge of principles, techniques, and objectives of marketing, manages a sales program, knowledge of hotel management and philosophy.

Position: Sales Representative, Pro shop (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of training and experienced in the field of golf operation, must maintain outstanding customer service, generating sales, merchandising, must be fully competent in selling, knowledgeable of cashing and receipt processing, knows how to operate a computerized point of sale cash receipts, inventory management system, ensure that each customer receives, ability to work varied hours/days, including nights, weekends and holidays as needed, must recognize security risks and thefts and know how to handle or prevent such situations.

Position: Front Desk Supervisor (2)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years of hospitality work, must have total understanding of all hotel front office procedures, know standard of cash handling, knowledge of computerized cash register systems, reservation system, must have experience in dealing directly with the public and acquired general knowledge of basic customer service skills, experienced and trained in the field of Front Office Operation, assist the Front Office Staff in handling customers in an efficient, gracious and professional manner and maintains a friendly, cheerful and courteous demeanor at all times.

Position: Front Desk Clerk (2)

Qualifications: Must have at least 2 year experienced and training in hotel hospitality or tourism industry, must have good communication skills, professional attitude and organization, enjoy working with people, experienced in customer services, sales, ability to use a computer, handles cash, experienced in administrative tasks, ensure guests billing is correct, must assist in general maintenance and inventory of Front Office supplies, be courteous and efficient with customers.

Position: Front Desk Clerk, China/Korea Market (1)

Qualifications: Assist the front desk clerks in handling Korean and Chinese guests in an efficient, gracious and professional manner, responsible for the management, organization of the Front Office and related functions pertaining to the Korean and Chinese guests, respond and display a high degree of professionalism and integrity as well to a wide variety of people, enjoys dealing with people, computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications and superior Korean/Chinese written, and oral communication skills.

Position: Executive Housekeeping (1)

Qualifications: 7 years experience and training is required, must have worked preferably at a hotel, responsible for the smooth, efficient, cost effective operation of the Housekeeping Department, inventory control, works closely with Front Desk Assistant Manager to resolve all room discrepancies, possesses good knowledge of all matters relating to the proper administration of the Housekeeping department, provides employee safety training to prevent accidents, maintains quality standards through inspection programs, follows and ensures compliance to all hotel control procedures by staff.

Position: Housekeeping (2)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years of experience and training cleaning hotel rooms, ensure clean, orderly attractive rooms in hotels, and must have training cleaning golf facilities, prepare a list of prospective check-outs, investigates complaints regarding housekeeping service and equipment, takes corrective action, operates various mechanized cleaning equipment, responsible for disposal of trash, waste and other disposable materials, conducts inventories to ensure adequate supplies, observe precautions required to protect hotel guests’ property, and report theft or found articles to supervisors.

Position: Chief Accountant (1)

Qualifications: must have bachelor’s degree in public or business administration, accounting, finance or related field, supplemented by 5 years progressively responsible experience in business accounting, ability to understand, follow and confer written and oral instructions, ability to effectively supervise a staff comprised of entry and journey level professionals engaged in carrying out departmental functions, extensive knowledge of generally accepted standard accounting principles, established procedures, departmental guidelines and regulatory requirements.

Position: Accountant I (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of experienced and training, and a college graduate in the field of accounting or related field, maintain general ledger accounting system, analyze accounts and prepare account adjustment as needed, assist with fixed asset and inventory systems and record-keeping, perform a variety of complex, professional level accounting functions, maintain confidentiality of payroll and other related records, ability to prepare clear, concise and comprehensive financial, statistical and narrative reports, and perform complex financial, statistical, budgetary cost analysis and ability to perform complex accounting duties related to assigned activities.

Position: Accountant (1)

Qualifications: 5 years work experience and knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles and procedures and budgetary principles, considerate knowledge of computers and their application in financial and accounting system, ability to prepare clear financial statement, establish tables of accounts and assign entries to proper accounts, use professional judgment, ability to plan, organize and meet rigid schedules and demanding timelines and seasonal workloads.

Position: Information Technology Technician (1)

Qualification: Must have 5 years of experienced and training and a college graduate in Computer science, responsible for installing, maintaining computer hardware, software, networks, have proficient knowledge in computer hardware and software systems and programs, computer networks, network administration and network installations, computer troubleshooting, team building skills, analytical and problem solving skills, decision making skills, effective verbal, presentation and listening communication skills, effective written communication skills, computer skills including the ability to operate graphics and website development programs at a highly proficient level, good time manage.

Position: Information Technology Assistant (1)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years of experience and training and must be a college graduate of computer applications and operating systems, PC hardware and trouble shooting, repair procedures, principles and practices of computer and telephone support services, computer hardware and software applications, familiar with information technology policies and procedures, computer operations processing and procedures, communicate clearly and easily with user and vendors of varying levels of technical expertise.

Position: Project Engineer/Facility Maintenance Manager (1)

Qualifications: 10 years of experienced and training, college graduate, is responsible to ensure that all Laolao Bay Golf & Resort facilities are maintained in the highest of standards in their operation, assists in implementation and coordination of maintenance, repair, renovations of Company owned and leased facilities, monitors contractors compliance to standards for various Company buildings, conducts initial review and evaluates bids for compliance with specifications, report building maintenance needs, respond appropriately to emergencies or urgent issues as they arise, manage and supervise and coordinates the work of the staff and the work of contractors, communicate clearly and concisely, maintain adequate inventory, preventive maintenance and repairs of equipment.

Position: Supervisor, Electrician (1)

Qualifications: Have 7 years of training and experienced, and a college graduate, must have electrical trade qualifications, complies and adheres to the Occupational Safety and Health and Standards and practices, excellent communication and team building skills, must have computer systems skills, perform electrical work as required within their capabilities, maintaining a high standard of workmanship and abide by local statutes, performs skilled electrical installations, undertake modifications to plan & equipment repair electronic components of electrical equipment as required for continued operation, attend to production machinery breakdowns as required.

Position: Mechanic Engineer (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of training and experienced, must have graduate degree, is responsible for all mechanical installations maintenance programs, stress analysis, piping, process plants layout and mechanical building services, responsible in power plant engines and generations, evaluates equipment performance and operating conditions, proficient in the planning and control of work in a multi project, deadline driven environment, deep and thorough understanding of applicable regulatory requirements and industry practices, assumes accountability for the quality of mechanical engineering work.

Position: HVAC Technician (1)

Qualifications: 7 years of experience and training, must have specialized knowledge to analyze and solve complex problems, continuous concentrated mental and visual effort to plan and perform complex work, strong physical exertion, responsibility for cost control, sustained high degree of attention required to prevent damage or waste, repair replace needs necessary to maintain equipment and systems, install heating, air conditioning, refrigeration systems and related equipment for the propose of providing comfort inside facilities, maintains tools.

Position: Building Maintenance (2)

Qualifications: Must have 3 years of working experience and training, must have standard maintenance skills and the ability to apply that knowledge safely in a structured environment, skill in operating maintenance and carpentry tools and equipments, activities and decisions, requires independent actions, judgment in solving common problems, must have tolerance for exposure to unpleasant elements, be able to positively interact with fellow workers, maintains and repairs a variety of building facilities and provides service for common mechanical, electrical, and building system devices.

Position: Assistant Manager, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of experience and training in golf industry, Must be able to communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, inspect golf equipment, structures, or materials, work with the public, assist others, monitor events, coordinates the work and activities of others, develop and build teamwork, knowledge of a second language is a plus, knowledge of the golf sport and rules is a must, generally work a flex schedule, often deal with unpleasant, angry or discourteous customers, work in a group or as part of a team, provide directions to customers, make sure that the customers follow golf etiquette and rules.

Position: Supervisor, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years experienced and training and working in a golf industry, must keep things running smoothly, provide information about and the services the Company provides, keep equipment in working order, explain how to use equipment safely, provide information about rules, record details of attendance, reservations, make sure that people follow rules, communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, must be pleasant, neat in appearance, must be punctual and reliable, ability to work well with the public is very important, knowledge of the golf sport, responsible for work outcomes and results of other attendants.

Position: Operations/Marshall (1)

Qualifications: Must have training and experience in the field of golf industry, must knowledge of the rules of the golf game is a must, ensures that an adequate pace of play is maintained, makes the golf game more enjoyable for everyone, enforces rules and regulations and control golf play on the golf course, enforces etiquette related to golf course usage, golf playing equipment and its recommended use, perform duties with significant independence, establish and maintain cooperative relationships with those in the course of the work.

Position: Supervisor, Landscape (1)

Qualifications: Must have 7 years of experienced and training in the field of a golf course industry, must oversees the landscaping activities and supervises all landscaping personnel, work required judgment and initiative, planning, scheduling, organizing and directing work, training personnel, teaches and enforces safety regulations, monitors jobs both indoors and outdoors to ensure quality and compliance with job standards, performs duties of a landscaper, continuous concentrated mental and visual effort to plan and perform complex work, considerable external and or internal contacts to carry out responsibilities.

Position: Supervisor, Greens keeper (1)

Qualifications: Must have 7 years of training and experienced, must have worked preferably at a hotel and golf industry, establishes and maintain and repair programs for the golf course and the hotel, evaluates and determines the need for and scope of emergency repairs and supervises staff and contractors in performing work, establishes procedures governing employee and customer’s safety, perform grounds maintenance, perform preventive maintenance to the equipment, applies insecticides, herbicides and fertilizers maintains and operate irrigation system, experienced and knowledgeable in tractor operation and mowing.

Position: Greens keeper (14)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years experience and training, must have working knowledge at a golf course, knowledge of methods and materials used in grounds and landscaped area knowledge of and ability to use hand and power tools and equipment, ability to operate trucks, light motorized equipment, physical strength, stamina and agility, assists in the construction of new greens, tees, and fairways, lays sod, and seeds tees, greens and fairways.

Position: Nursery Workers (4)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years experience and training, must have working knowledge at a golf course, performs routine maintenance on equipment, move containerized shrubs, plants, greens, using wheelbarrows, carts, shovel or tractors, maintain grounds and landscaping, haul and spread topsoil, fertilizer, peat moss and other materials to condition soil, requires to be reliable, responsible, and dependable, pleasant to work with, displays good natured and cooperative attitude.

Position: Machinist (1)

Qualifications: 5 years of experience and training, must have overall knowledge working with machines, of machines, knowledge of a machine structure, performs routine maintenance on equipment, determine when and what kind of maintenance is needed, requires physical activities and considerable use of the arms, legs and moving your whole body.

Position: Fabricator & Assembler (1)

Qualifications: Must have 10 years of training and experience, must be able to fabricates, assembles, installs, and repairs sheet metal products and equipment on the basis of knowledge of system operation, may work with aluminum, galvanized steel, stainless steel, or other sheet metal stock, frequent to constant standing, walking through shift on all types of surfaces, maintains a safe work environment must be able to plan, organize, must be able to read and understand technical information, manuals, material safety data sheets, work order.

Position: Heavy Equipment Machinist (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of training and experience, performs skilled tasks in the mechanical repair and maintenance of heavy trucks, earth moving, and related construction equipment including road graders, knowledge of hazards and safety precautions of the trade, operation and maintenance requirements of heavy duty construction equipment, work cooperatively with other employees, work safely without presenting a direct threat to self or others, performs incidental welding operations on equipment.

Position: Golf Cart Mechanic (2)

Qualification: high school diploma, 3 years technical training or experienced in mechanical, dismantle engines, using hand tools and examine parts for defects, test and inspect engines to determine malfunctions, to locate missing and broken parts, perform routine maintenance such as cleaning and oiling parts, honing cylinders and tuning ignition system, ability to demonstrate good judgment when dealing with guests or other personnel, able to lift/carry supplies or equipment with frequent reaching, stooping, bending, and kneeling, extensive walking and standing.

Drop off your resume at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort at the Front Office, Kagman Road.

May submit resume online at: mada@laolabay.com

WE ACCEPT APPLICATIONS UP TO FEBRUARY 24, 2012.

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

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'Rainbow salad' tops KagES recipe contest

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The "rainbow salad" prepared by sixth graders Mannelyn Cabrera and Leikita Maliuyaf emerged as the top winner in the 2012 Kagman Elementary School's recipe contest, besting 23 other contenders in the competition held Monday on campus.

As the school's top recipe, their entry will be submitted to the Public School System recipe contest committee and it will hopefully be eligible to enter in the islandwide competition next month.

This year's winning recipe has these main ingredients: pineapple with peaches, mixed fruits, and young coconut mixed in lite cool whip and milk.

Lareyna Camacho, this year's coordinator for the Kagman Elementary recipe contest, said the competition was held in the school cafeteria with 25 students from kindergarten to sixth grade participating.

There were two categories in the competition: the kindergarten to third grade division and the fourth to sixth grade division.

In the K-3 division, participants had to create something using one of the following fruits: banana, papaya, tangerine, mountain apple, or star-

fruit/carambola.

For the fourth to sixth grade division, the group had to make a recipe with one of the following fruits: mango, watermelon, pineapple, sweet sop, or guava.

"Students made a variety of recipes using their choice of fruit in a cake, smoothie, and even salsa," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

All recipes were judged according to taste, texture, presentation, and originality. Judges also assessed if the recipe is healthy: low in sugar, low in fat, or low in sodium. Additionally, all entries were checked if they are practical or economical to make on the island.

According to Camacho, the school-level recipe contest is in line with National Nutrition Month, which will be celebrated next month with the theme "Get Your Plate in Shape."

She said it is also a way of spreading awareness of the new nutrition guideline, "MyPlate," which recommends that half of plate meals should be fruits and vegetables.

Camacho shared that the students that joined the contest showed so much potential of becoming professionals in the field of culinary arts. They came up with their own recipes, even giving recipes their



Leikita Maliuyaf and Mannelyn Cabrera, the first place winners in the 2012 Kagman Elementary School Recipe Contest, are seen preparing their rainbow salad during the competition Tuesday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Judges enjoy one of the many entries during Tuesday's Kagman Elementary School's recipe contest on campus. From left are judges Emma Manzano, Penny Norita, and Tricia Santos.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

unique names.

"These kids not only learned about healthy eating but they learned so much more about food safety, food prep, to the importance of co-operation in the kitchen. They were all so proud of their work and thrilled that they had the opportunity to make a healthy recipe," added Camacho.



NMI JROTC drill teams leave for regional meet

Three CNMI Public School System JROTC programs are traveling to Torrance, Calif., this week to compete in the 8th Brigade, Cadet Command Inaugural Drill Meet for all Western Region based schools. The competition occurs at North High School on Feb. 18, 2012.

The CNMI Drill Teams include Saipan Southern High and Rota and Tinian high schools. These teams will battle the best in the Western United States. The CNMI JROTC Drill Teams will represent the Western Pacific Region that includes Guam, South Korea, and Japan. Schools competing in this event hail from Alaska, Nevada, Oregon, California, Washington, Hawaii, and Idaho.

The Brigade Drill Meet will determine the champions that will compete in the U.S. Army Cadet Command JROTC National Drill Championships that will occur in Louisville, Kentucky on March 31, 2012.

This event maintains both an Armed Division (with drill rifles) competition and an Unarmed Division competition. Both of these competition divisions are trophyed and scored separately. This will allow smaller schools to better compete with larger schools who always split their "talent" and form two competition units. There is no grand championship or other overall scoring that combines Armed and Unarmed team scores as current regulations maintain the Armed and

Unarmed qualifiers do so independently.

The following events are counted toward a team's Armed/Unarmed Championship point totals: Team Inspection, Platoon Regulation, Color Guard, and Exhibition Drill. Teams must enter and obtain a score in all four events in their division to win the division title. All teams are eligible to win team trophies within each specific event entered, no matter what other events the team enters. First through fifth place team trophies are awarded in each team event listed above.

Nominated schools from each Brigade will be allowed from two to five complete drill teams (Armed and Unarmed team) into the Army Nationals competition. 8th Brigade will inform the participants who will represent the Brigade at the Nationals at the conclusion of the Drill Meet.

LTC (retired) Robert Gay, CNMI PSS JROTC Director of Army Instruction, informed the CNMI JROTC schools of this opportunity back in October 2011. Gay was selected as the Head Evaluator for the Western Pacific Area.

The CNMI PSS JROTC held a CNMI competition at Marianas High School on Jan. 14. Saipan Southern High School won that portion of the competition and will represent the CNMI in the Armed Division.

Gay created a Joint Tinian and Rota Drill Team that quali-

fied to compete in the Unarmed Division. Sgt. Maj. (retired) Jesse Leon Guerrero served as the head evaluator for the event.

Leon Guerrero is an Army Instructor at Simon Sanchez High School in Guam and started the Marianas High School JROTC Program along with Sgt. Maj. (retired) Frank Cepeda in 1991. Maj. Rose Mendiola and Capt. Fidel Castro of the University of Guam SROTC Program also judged the meet. Also judging were the CNMI's Army Recruiter, Staff Sgt. Clint Castro and members of the 100th Battalion 442nd Infantry and the Theater Support Detachment.

"This is tremendous opportunity for the CNMI PSS JROTC program to make this trip to compete against the best drill teams in the Western United States. The federal government's Cadet Command is providing \$70,000 to support the CNMI PSS JROTC Teams' par-

ticipation," Gay said. "Federal dollars will be more challenged in the next few years as the Defense Department is projected to make significant cuts in the foreseeable future."

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan and Board of Education chair MaryLou S. Ada observed the Jan. 14 Drill Championships and offered effusive praise for all the cadets and their outstanding efforts and performances. Gay said that all of the High School JROTC Programs are to be commended for their hard work and accomplishments.

The CNMI Team left the CNMI on Feb. 14 and will arrive in Los Angeles on Feb. 15. The plan is for them to practice from Feb. 15 through Feb. 17 at the North High School Drill Site. The CNMI Team will compete on Feb. 18 and tour historic sites on Feb. 19 before departing for home station on Feb. 20. The CNMI Team will arrive to Saipan at 9:35pm on Feb. 21. (PR)

Chamber to host tax seminar on Friday

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is still accepting registrations for the SCC tax seminar being presented by Deloitte and Ernst & Young this Friday, Feb. 17, 2012 at the SCC conference rooms from 9am to 11am. There's no charge for SCC members for the first seat, and a second entry would cost \$10 only.

Deloitte's Edgar T. Aguilar will discuss Tax Saving Strategies for the 2012 filing season,

and Small Business Tax Saving Strategies. Ernst & Young's Edmund E. Brobesong will present material reflecting source of income rules applicable in the CNMI. These rules determine the amount of gross revenue subject to gross revenue tax (only CNMI sourced revenue is subject to the gross revenue tax). Contract executive director Richard Pierce at executive@saipanchamber.com for more information. (SCC)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 16, 1999

Governor to launch own lobbying effort

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is set to meet with Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) next week in Washington D.C. to lobby for support against a federal proposal that will set in motion the takeover of local minimum wage and immigration. Tenorio is leaving on Saturday for the US capital to attend the annual winter meeting of the National Governors Association and the Pacific Basin Development Council. A meeting with Murkowski, chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, has been scheduled on February 23 in another attempt to win the sympathy of the lawmaker against plans of the Clinton administration to introduce a new legislation on takeover.

CPA falls short in revenue target

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has failed to generate the needed revenue last month to meet debt service coverage for its \$53 million debt as income from operations continue to nosedive. As of Jan. 31, 1999, the cash-strapped ports authority is short of \$153,736 in servicing the airport bond. Likewise, it needs \$27,705 to meet debt service requirement for the seaport bond for the same period. With its sinking funds, the ports authority has planned to raise airport fees to be able to repay its \$53 million debt. However, the proposal has been strongly criticized by various sectors in the community claiming that the timing is wrong.

Feb. 16, 2000

NMIRF eyes record \$56M budget for FY 2001

The Northern Marianas Retirement Fund board is reviewing a proposed budget of \$56 million for its operations in Fiscal Year 2001, the biggest spending plan in the agency's history. According to NMIRF Board Chair Vicente Camacho, the biggest chunk of the budget, or 87.8 percent, will be used to pay monthly pension of its members. Some \$2.1 million has been set aside for the construction of Retirement Fund buildings in Rota and Tinian but implementation of such plan depends on the settlement of the CNMI government's unpaid contribution now amounting to \$30 million.

Teno vetoes propose conservation area

Saying he was disappointed to disapprove a measure to designate Managaha Island and its surrounding water as a Marine Conservation Act (HB 11-500), Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on Monday two issues must first be resolved before he can sign the bill into law. The first one was the section about the Superintendent's duties and responsibilities that raise separation of power issues. That section gives the Superintendent the power to oversee the operations, maintenance, and administration of the conservation area. He is also authorized to hire, terminate and provide for training of Conservation Officers. The bill placed the Superintendent within the Division of Fish and Wildlife, which is under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. The second concern of the governor is with respect to reassigning of funds under Public Law 11-64 regarding the landing fees for Managaha Islands from a number of public service programs to Managaha research items.

Feb. 16, 2001

Golf course: \$1.5M for fractured leg too much

Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort with co-defendants, Shimizu Corporation and the Tokio Marine & Fire Insurance Co., Ltd. has filed a legal motion asking the Superior Court to vacate a jury verdict that awarded local golfer Juan M. San Nicolas \$1.5 million. San Nicolas sustained fractures to his right leg in a golfing accident on Nov. 6, 1995. Defense lawyers Randall Todd Thompson and Vicente T. Salas stated in the motion that the \$1.5 million verdict is "against the weight of the evidence" and "grossly excessive by any conventional notion of valuation."

ATM for garment workers installed

Garment workers can now fulfill their banking transactions without leaving the comfort and safety of their own factory. Tan Holdings Corp. and Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. have joined hands in the installation of an Automated Teller Machine inside the premises of the company's garment manufacturing plant in Lower Base. The new ATM facility, which was inaugurated yesterday, comes as an added benefit to employees of THC whose salary payments are now being made through the direct deposit program. THC employees have been provided an ATM card that allows them the convenience and flexibility of accessing their account through the new facility 24 hours a day.

US military works with Habitat for Humanity of Guam

By SHAINA MARIE SANTOS
JOINT REGION EDGE STAFF

SANTA RITA, Guam—Service members partnered with Habitat for Humanity of Guam to refurbish the home of island resident Antonio Bagaygay in Talofofo, Guam on Feb. 4.

Bagaygay, 91, lives alone on a lot that was once covered by trees and plants. The home was almost invisible to passersby, until a Habitat for Humanity of Guam employee found him and solicited the aid of volunteers.

"This project has had at least 20-30 people each weekend," said Habitat for Humanity of Guam's board president Shane Intihar. "It is very easy to get sailors and airmen out to these projects. This is the kind of stuff they love to do."

Ann Cruz, administrative assistant for Habitat for Humanity of Guam, was pleased with the turnout of service members.

"The militaries, the Andersen, the Navies, and every volunteer that I call, they have all the heart when they come out and they came here, they work, and they help us out," she said. "They like to do what is good for the people and what is good for the families. They show they really are one of the Samaritans

here on our island and that's what we're looking for, people like them."

Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Bryan Darnell, of U.S. Naval Base Guam Security, was one of the many sailors who volunteered at the event.

"I like helping out," Darnell said. "I like coming out and helping people around the island. We're showing a pretty good presence out here. We're showing a lot of military personnel out here are more than willing to help the local community."

Lt. Alex May, of Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas echoed his sentiments.

"Habitat for Humanity got the word out that [Bagaygay] needs help, so here we are," he said. "It's very important that we keep in touch with the community and this is one of the great opportunities to do so. I thank every single one that's here to help out."

Bagaygay grew up in the Philippines, where he was recruited into the U.S. Army. When he arrived on Guam, he helped in rebuilding efforts after World War II.

"He's done a lot to serve both the U.S. military and Guam," Intihar said.



(U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY SHAINA MARIE SANTOS/RELEASED)

Shane Intihar, president of the board of directors for Habitat for Humanity of Guam, coordinates the next project for volunteers in Talofofo, Guam Feb. 4. Service members and others volunteered to refurbish the home of local resident Antonio Bagaygay.

UoG launches first fully online graduate program

The School of Education launched the University of Guam's first online program, the Master of Education with Specialization in Reading program, during the 2012 spring semester. Developed for students in Guam and the Micronesian region, the program prepares professionals in the field of reading/literacy who are interested in becoming highly

effective teachers and reading specialists.

The program, which was approved in August 2011 by the Senior Commission of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, offers the same rigor and academic quality as a traditional face-to-face degree program, yet offers the convenience of online learning that

fits the schedule of a busy professional. The internship/practical component of the program will not be offered online, but will be offered in Guam and other locations in Micronesia.

For information about the program visit www.uog.edu/soe or contact Dr. Catherine Stoicovy, program chair at Stoicovy@guam.net. (UOG)



UOG

The 14 members of the first cohort are pictured from left, front row: Gloria Frias, Nicole Borja, and Lenith Atienza; second row from left: Viola Salas, Dr. Catherine Stoicovy, program chair, and Nadine Cruz; third row from left: Lourdes Felipe, Fatima Tibudan, and Liwayway Anicas; back row from left: Stephane Lujan, Johnnavan Tamayo, Theodore Nededog and Pamela Villanueva. Pictured separately is Leilani Welley-Biza, a faculty member at the College of Micronesia Pohnpei campus. Not pictured are Aileen Pamintuan and Pohnpei student Remenster Johnna.

EODMU 5 holds field training exercise in Guam

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician 3rd Class Jacob Still, of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5, takes photos to identify unexploded ordnance during a five-day joint field training exercise with the Guam National Guard in Yigo Feb. 9.

U.S. NAVY/GABRIELLE BLAKE



By GABRIELLE BLAKE
Mass Communication Specialist 2nd
Class
JOINT REGION EDGE STAFF

SANTA RITA, Guam—Sailors assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 went through a five-day joint field-training exercise with the Guam National Guard in Yigo, Guam Feb. 6-9.

"We came out and set out an expeditionary base camp and then had three EOD teams deployed out to do problems that they would normally encounter in our area of operations," said EODMU 5 battalion leading chief petty officer Senior Chief Explosive Ordnance Technician Isaac Callicrate.

The training included coun-

ter improvised explosive device training, training-to-combat terrorism and working with GUNG to do security patrols and other integration training.

"Right now there's no one person or one command in the areas where we have conflicts, it is all a joint effort," Callicrate said. "So we try to get the joint concept as soon as we can in the training cycle to make sure that our sailors are used to working with the Army, Marine Corps and Air Force."

EOD technicians set up a combat control center where networks and communication systems were put in place, providing reach-back capability and voice and data communi-

cations between the battalion, GUNG, and the EOD teams in the field.

"It was definitely a learning experience," Information Systems Technician 1st Class Donny Athan said. "I never tried to coordinate two different services moving together, working together."

EODMU 5 deploys and employs tailored EOD units to locate, identify, render safe and remove conventional, chemical, biological, nuclear, radiological, and improvised explosive hazards in order to enable access for joint, naval, and special operations forces within the Western Pacific Theater of Operations and elsewhere, when directed.

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL



Memorable singer, and a cautionary tale

The story is familiar. Beautiful, talented singer, actor, dancer, and on down the list, succumbs in a tragic likely accident that may have involved drug abuse. Whitney Houston was added to that roll call Saturday. She was 48. Like so many others, she is gone too soon, and yet she will always be with us.

Almost from the time the little girl from Newark, N.J., opened her mouth in song, it was clear she would one day be a star. And why not, given her lineage? Gospel great Cissy Houston was her mother, pop music icon Dionne Warwick her aunt, and the queen of soul, Aretha Franklin, her god-mother. Little "Nippy," as they called her, surpassed them all in the millions of records she sold globally.

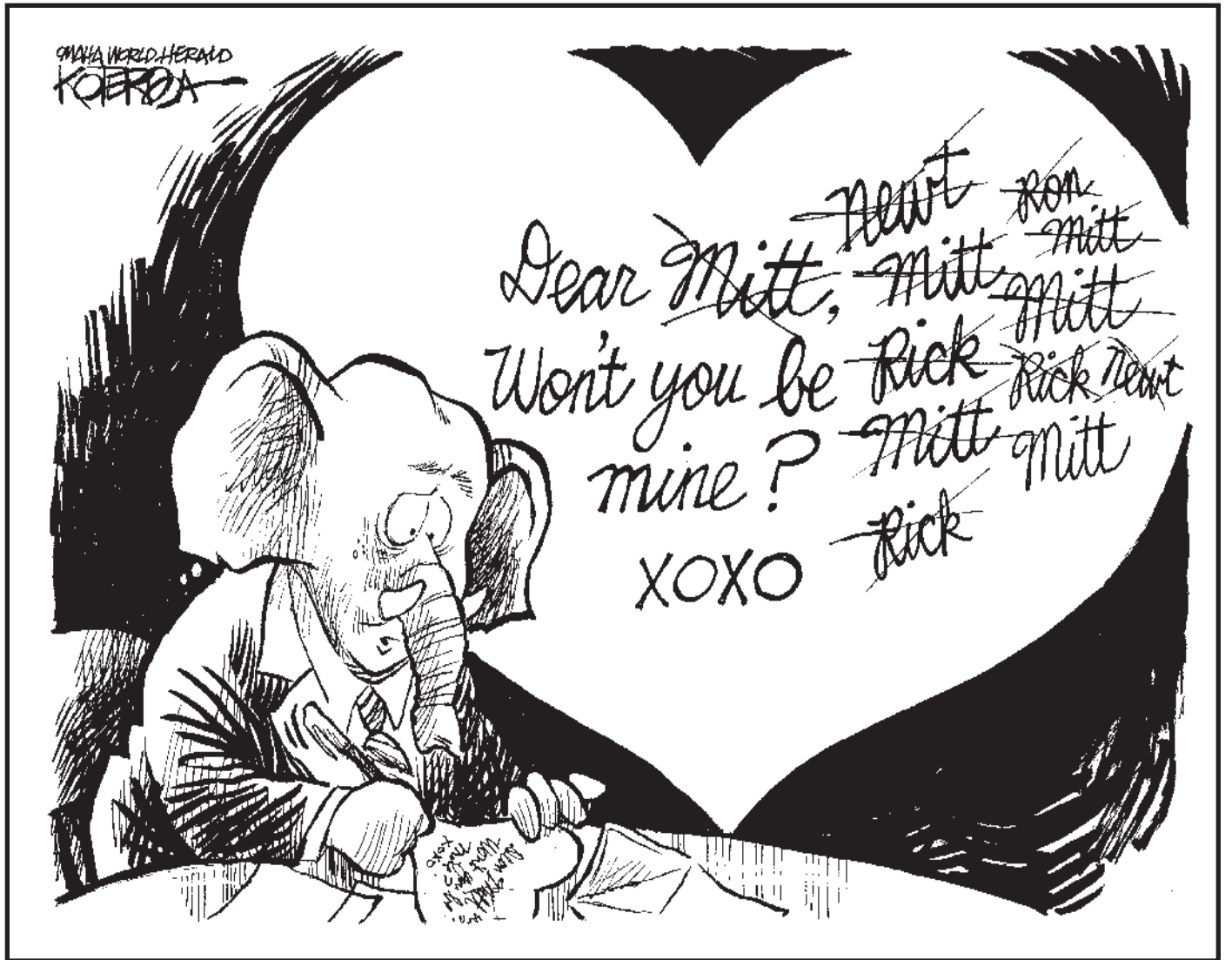
But the singing sensation, who as a youngster gained a reputation as being too squeaky clean to be believed, passed into maturity with an appetite for cocaine and marijuana, she admitted. Her tempestuous marriage to equally drug-dependent R&B singer Bobby Brown failed. Three times she went to rehab. Her voice suffered. The comeback that always seemed so close never came.

Houston's life may serve as a cautionary lesson to some, and that's fine. It's a lesson that can't be taught too often, or too early. But that's not the only Whitney Houston who should be remembered.

Remember her as the only pop singer to have seven consecutive No. 1 singles on Billboard. Remember her as the singer who put Francis Scott Key on the Top 10 charts as a lyricist for her thrilling rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner." Remember her as the talented actress in films like "Waiting to Exhale." Remember her as the voice heard on tape in countless weddings, singing her signature hit, "I Will Always Love You."

Remember her as the memorable singer she was.

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Made in China

Our MacBook Air and its CE external drive are made in China. So is our iPad and its Logitech speaker stand, our outsourced Sony camera, a waterpik water flosser safely tucked in our China-made Samsonite that originated either in Shenzhen or Suzhou. The irony is that I bought them all in the United States at a cheaper price than what I would have to pay in any of the Shenyang department stores!

A memory stick, affordable at my university store, is still more expensive than Best Buy Pearl City when used as a "come on" in our last store visit. I browsed at Target (pronounced *tar shay* among pretentious Francophiles) in NY where I wanted to get a flash drive but deferred thinking that I could get it cheaper in China. Not. Don't work that way! China products are cheaper in the West than at source!

Thus all these bashing of jobs having all flown to China is a one-sided inaccurate story. Chinese workers getting employment break in the commercialization of its industry means that the agrarian population has crowded into the industrial centers in search of jobs they were not qualified to hold. Now we have China's populace finally heavier on the urban rather than the rural side.

The HR rush into the construction and manufacturing industries also exposed the fact that many high school graduates joining the labor pool found accommodations rather limited. A Chinese-Canadian colleague claims that only 20 percent of HS graduates went to college 10 years ago; in 2011, universities accommodated 62 percent. The focus on higher education is there, but the more practical reason has to do with a bloated labor force available but cannot be absorbed by the industrial sector. This, like the situation when we created the Land Grant Colleges, is not a temporary situation.

The challenge among graduating university students remains the same as when they entered the institution: access to jobs to start securing existence and fulfilling filial obligations. As elsewhere, a university certificate does not guarantee a job, and for persons who manage to get certificates but not education, the challenge is double. With the global recession and the cutback on commercial orders for manufactured goods, we now have a crisis in our hands of "certificated" people joining labor's ranks but not finding any financially fulfilling roles.

Heretofore, China's populace was high on personal savings. That has dramatically changed. Western economies set on getting out of the global recession aim to open up the Chinese wallet and imbue consumption into Sino body, heart, mind, and soul, less on needs and heavy on wants. To have an idea of the size of the market, there are more millionaires in China as there are citizens in Australia!

One of my students last year fingered his iPhone's off-button at the start of class, a good six months before I foolishly yearned for

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergara2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



an iPad. Exotic sports cars with names like Porsche, BMW, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Mercedes, Aston Martin are driving the bottom lines of many Shanghai showrooms, with some already guzzling gas on the new circumferential and elevated highways of Shenyang.

It is a mistake to begrudge China its ascendant economic status. By its sheer numbers and the length of the existence of its civilization, we are milk dripping babes. China has been trading domestically and internationally since the Silk Road began making many European houses of finance drool over investment and profit.

China bashing is shortsighted, a narrow resentment against the perceived socialist nature of its economy and communist management of its politics. We would be better off finding ways to milk its potential and promise. We mine the oil-advantage, enduring dictators and oligarchs in the process. Why would we not be smart enough to do the same as China opens its wallet to the world?

Here's what we have so far. China's industrial capacity and capability is still inexpensive but reliable. Apple's story of needing a scratch-resistant cover for its iPhone requiring nine months to line up a production capability in the U.S. but only taking 18 days to do so in China means that resource, labor, and production is more efficiently and cost effectively handled in Chairman Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao's domain.

Our iPad is made in China but less than 2 percent of the retail cost stays. This means that Apple's chain of vendors from end of production on to the distribution-to-sales line are outside the Yuan and already in dollar\$. The Chinese are not making the big money on our wants and wishes. We are!

"We" is a complex network of finance, promotion, and sales web. Countries financing Chinese enterprises other than internal China (plus HK, Taiwan, and Chinatowns) include Japan, Korea, Singapore, with marketing outlets in Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East.

Saipan is an R&R destination of folks from the abovementioned countries. If we gain self-sufficiency in our basic foods needs (as Pellegrino keeps harping), we also earn self-reliance in deciding our own destiny (with due consideration of our mortgaged soul for the privilege of an island PX). That's doable, isn't it?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Simple minds

I recently stumbled over an old article I wrote in 2007 about a 1945 secret memo that revealed how the U.S. military viewed the Pacific islands then (or still?). I found myself laughing as I read and re-read it.

I don't know why it took five years for me to find the humor in the content of the memo, which rings like a caricature of the U.S.-territorial relationship.

The memo, written by Vice Adm. G.D. Murray, then commander of the Marianas Navy Force, stated that "the economic development and administration of relatively few native inhabitants should be subordinate to the real purpose for which those islands are held."

"Military control of these islands is essential as their military value far outweighs their economic value," Murray stated in the three-page memo that recommended the Navy's control of Guam and other western Pacific islands.

Murray said the Pacific islands' commercial or industrial value and its resources were "of little or no relative importance to the welfare of the United States."

"From the military stand point," Murray said, "a contented healthy and loyal native population contributes a strong link in the strength of those lands as bases."

Murray described the island natives as "simple people, requiring few of our modern luxuries for their welfare and happiness. The characteristics and nature of the majority of inhabitants on these islands are such that the artificial or forced raising of their standard of living to one approaching that of the United States would be detrimental to their best interest and would contribute little to the safety

and welfare of the United States."

It was written on Nov. 21, 1945, obviously during a period when thought censorship and politeness were not being practiced in the sociopolitical landscape.

Over half a century later, one wonders if there was any evolution in the U.S. government's attitude toward the "simple people" of the Pacific islands.

This was answered last month during a conference held in Guam by the U.S. District Court of Guam and the CNMI, where a panel of constitutional scholars and experts on insular issues tackled a series of landmark decisions on insular cases, which narrowly held that protections under U.S. Constitution did not fully apply to territories. The Supreme Court decisions, in so many words, stated that "those simple folks are not one of us."

The same condescending attitude remains, according to the panelists, who pointed to the vague standards in constitutional application and the "layers of ambiguities" that purportedly endorse the status of islanders as second-class citizens. Hence their inability to vote in national elections and their delegates' lack of voting power in Congress.

Among the panelists, University of Guam president Robert Underwood spoke—in almost self-flagellating fashion—as the voice of reason. "As far as Congress is concerned," he said, "the way we are treated is just fair because we are not putting anything into the pot. National participation comes with contribution."

Dr. Underwood, who served as Guam's delegate to Congress for 10 years, said there is a rational basis to treat territories differently. "Some things work to our advantage; some to our disadvantage. Being outside and being an unincorporated territory allows us to take advantage of what works in our favor. Once they figure out that being unincorporated give us more advantages, then they would try

An outsider makes good playing ball

A ballplayer from a minority not normally associated with big-time sports bursts onto the scene, tearing up the league with his spirited play.

He's an instant sensation with the fans—but especially those of his own tribe, overcome with pride at their champion's success and eager to embrace his quintessentially American game as a sign of their belonging at last. I'm speaking, of course, about Hank Greenberg, who drove in a mind-boggling 183 runs in 1937 and was baseball's first Jewish superstar at a time—the '30s and '40s—when his co-religionists sorely needed some good news.

But I could just as easily be speaking of fluid young Jeremy Lin, who fell onto the New York Knicks as their new starting point guard last week the way sweet rain falls on soil parched by drought. Lin is the first American-born player of Chinese descent in the NBA.

A few hot games do not a Hall of Fame career make; New York's newest hero could easily flame out or tear up a knee. Yet there are some important ways in which Lin is very much in Greenberg's league—an American league much grander than the one the He-brew Hammer terrorized with his bat.

Like Greenberg, Lin is an outsider who excels at a most American game. Like Greenberg, Lin is a member of an ethnic group historically victimized by discrimination, and better known for its

intellectual achievements than its athletic prowess.

Both men also have New York in common. Greenberg left it for Detroit. Lin, thank God, has come to us.

Both men have inspired ethnic followings. Like Greenberg's Jewish fans, Lin's Chinese supporters are no doubt aware that brains will carry you very far in this country, but America will never love its scientists and intellectuals the way it loves its sluggers and point guards. Lin could win a Nobel Prize and his family would be proud. But what most people will want to know is, how many championship rings does he have?

The genius of America is that it makes you want to belong, and for better or worse sports are a great way in. We've seen this again and again, particularly in baseball. Tony Lazzeri and Joe DiMaggio were tremendous sources of pride to Italian-Americans. For male Jewish baby boomers, Sandy Koufax practically eclipsed Moses; the Jewish fireballer not only mowed down opposing batters, but refused to pitch the opening game of the 1965 World Series because it fell on Yom Kippur.

Perhaps the best example of professional sports as an engine of inclusion is that of the great Jackie Robinson, who broke baseball's color line for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, when he was Rookie of the Year and African-Americans still had to cope with Jim Crow.

Pro sports are quite diverse these days. But there are some new

FLIGHTS

By **MAR-VIC CAGURANGAN**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Mar-Vic Cagurangan is a Guam-based journalist. She is the former managing editor of Glimpses Publications and is now a full-time domestic goddess. Send feedback to mar_vic_cagurangan@yahoo.com.



to incorporate us."

Dr. Underwood also noted the insular jurisdictions' tendencies to compartmentalize issues depending on what suits them right.

He hit the nail on the head. Guam, for example, could not make a consistent position on the military buildup. At one point, opposing the planned military expansion on Guam was a fashionable thing to do. When the relocation plan was eventually scaled down, government leaders backpedaled. Then they accelerated their efforts to lobby for the implementation of the original plan, using China as the boogeyman. "China is a threat to the region's security, therefore we need the U.S. military," they say. Incidentally, these are the same people who are lobbying for a China visa waiver.

"Someone has to find a kind of integrating vision. It goes back to the way we articulate our vision; and we have no clear vision because we treat every issue independent of others," Dr. Underwood said.

In a nutshell, insular jurisdictions should get over their victim mentality. Let's start figuring out what we want and take on the challenge to prove that we are not simpletons.

By **DANIEL AKST**
Newsday

Daniel Akst, a columnist for Newsday, is the author of We Have Met the Enemy: Self-Control in an Age of Excess from Penguin Press.



reasons for the outpouring of adulation Lin and his play have generated. At a time of high anxiety about the nation's schools, when college sports scandals come and go as regularly (and distressingly) as Republican presidential front-runners, Jeremy Lin comes to us from Harvard.

Lin's obscurity up until now is also in his favor. The Knicks traded a brace of popular players for Carmelo Anthony, but the team's play this year has been dismal. Now it looks like they've found their messiah not in some highly paid superstar, but in a classic underdog who, at 6-foot-3 in a league of giants, is shorter than I am yet leaps tall forwards in a single bound, gets his teammates involved—and has the Knicks winning.

Thinking about him, like recalling Koufax, makes me happy. I'm happier still for his parents, who must be delirious. The only question now is, how do you say kvell in Mandarin?

Letter to the Editor

An open letter from OFWs

In a news briefing on Feb. 10, 2012, the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan confirmed that the Department of Foreign Affairs shall consolidate Philippine foreign service posts in the Pacific region sometime in July this year due to budgetary constraints. Accordingly, the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan shall continue to serve Filipinos in the CNMI until sometime after the Independence Day commemoration in June 2012 and the Ambassadors, Consuls General, Tourism Directors Tour of the Philippines in July 2012. The Philippine Consulate General in Guam shall then assume consular jurisdiction and responsibilities over the Northern Mariana Islands, in addition to its current consular jurisdiction.

The need for a Philippine Consulate on Saipan arose during the heyday of the garment and tourism industries in the CNMI in the mid- to late '80s, during which an ever increasing number of Filipino workers entered the CNMI to assist its construction development and tourism industries and the shortage of trained professionals and skilled labor workforce. The Philippine Consulate on Saipan was established on March 3, 1989. The Consulate was upgraded to a Consulate General in June 2001.

Come July 2012, the Filipino community will bid goodbye to all Philippine consulate officials on Saipan if our Philippine government is serious about closing down its consular office here. The days of all

overseas Filipino workers in the CNMI will soon be totally dark until 2014, the end of transition period set forth under the CNRA.

The rising immigration problems of majority of OFWs in the CNMI, the awarded but unpaid salary claims of some OFWs, and the repatriation of the needy OFWs will soon be the problem of the Filipino community and/or will be left in the hands of workers advocates and Filipino organizations in requesting assistance from the Guam consular post. These are the unforeseen problems and burdens that may arise if the Philippine government will push through their plans of closing down the consulate office on Saipan. While it is true that the Philippine Consulate General in Guam shall assume consular jurisdiction over the Northern Mariana Islands, their services will not be as fast and efficient as it is today that we have our own consular office in the island due to travel restrictions on OFWs on Saipan.

Jose L. Cuisia Jr., in his address sometime during his appointment as Philippine Ambassador to the United States, said, "The Embassy and the other Philippine Foreign Service posts throughout the U.S. are fully committed to protecting the interests of overseas Filipino workers and responsive to their needs and welfare. The Filipino diaspora in the U.S. is a force to be harnessed and a crucial partner in building on Philippine-American ties."

His message will be far from reality if the Philippine government

turns its back from about 8,000 OFWs currently working and residing on Saipan. OFWs on Saipan are currently facing uncertainties in their immigration status, unpaid salaries, unresolved labor cases, unemployment due to economic slowdown, and other related incidents, among others. Closing down the consulate on Saipan will only create chaos and a miserable atmosphere among OFWs.

The economic reason as stated in closing down the consulate is unreasonable and unacceptable. OFWs in the CNMI are also contributors to our homeland economy and therefore we also deserve to receive a valuable service from our own government. OFWs understand the financial hardship in maintaining a consular post, but leaving us behind with nothing to turn to is an act of abandonment of a constituent. The exodus of OFWs leaving the CNMI will commence if the consular post closes down.

On behalf of OFWs in the CNMI, we strongly suggest to just limit the number of consulate personnel, leaving behind a skeleton crew on Saipan to cater to OFWs needs.






Why not close down Guam? Majority of Filipinos in Guam are H-visa holders and/or are permanent residents who don't require consular services as much, unlike in the CNMI where majority of OFWs are contract workers. OFWs with H-visas in Guam can travel to the CNMI, while CNMI OFWs and/or permanent residents are restricted from traveling to Guam. Not unless the U.S. government will grant long time foreign workers an improved immigration status. By then Philippine consulate officials can leave OFWs behind with peace of mind.

Carlito J. Marquez
Puerto Rico, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲87 ▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85 ▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲85 ▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼78

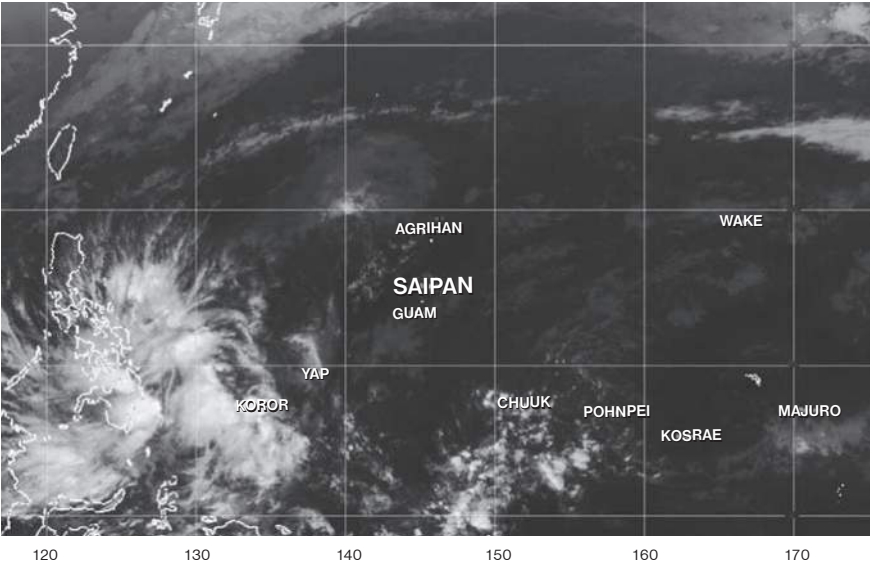
Around The Globe

Auckland	Thundershowers	▲74 ▼63
Beijing	Sunny	▲36 ▼18
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲62 ▼55
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲80 ▼70
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲52 ▼42
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲70 ▼47
Manila	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▼62
Miami	Sunny	▲81 ▼66
New York	Rain	▲46 ▼38
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲43 ▼33
Paris	Cloudy	▲47 ▼38
Pusan	Windy	▲41 ▼25
Rome	Sunny	▲56 ▼36
Salem	Showers	▲46 ▼40
San Francisco	Sunny	▲63 ▼46
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲30 ▼18
Tokyo	Showers	▲44 ▼31
Washington, DC	Rain	▲50 ▼38

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:53 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet	
8:19 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet	
1:43 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
9:41 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front stretches west-southwestward from 23N180 to 21N175E then continues as a shear line over Wake Island to 18N153E. Clouds and showers are found along and up to 150 miles north of this boundary. A surface trough west of the Marianas extends northward from 13N138E to 21N141E. Scattered showers are present near and west of the Marianas between 12N and 22N from 139E to 145E. A near-equatorial trough stretches southeastward from 4N130E to EQ138E. Low-level convergence near and north of the trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Yap state and the Republic of Palau west of a line from 13N138E to 5N140E to 2N147E to EQ147E. Weak trade-wind disturbances are producing scattered showers near Pohnpei and Chuuk within 180 miles of a line from 3N154E to 9N157E to 15N166E. A few thunderstorms are found in this area south of 8N. Scattered showers are also found south of Majuro east of a line from 2N170E to 6N170E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:42 AM	6:21 PM
Friday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Monday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:29 AM	1:04 PM
Friday	2:28 AM	2:03 PM
Saturday	3:23 AM	3:01 PM
Sunday	4:15 AM	3:58 PM
Monday	5:02 AM	4:53 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:20am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 DL580 10:10pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:40pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Negotiators reach tentative payroll tax cut pact

WASHINGTON (AP)—House-Senate talks on renewing a payroll tax cut that delivers about \$20 a week to the average worker yielded a tentative agreement Tuesday, with lawmakers hopeful of unveiling the pact Wednesday and sending the measure to President Barack Obama as early as this week.

Under the outlines of the emerging agreement, a 2 percentage-point cut in the Social Security payroll tax would be extended through the end of the year, with the nearly \$100 billion cost added to the deficit. Jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed would be renewed as well, with the \$30 billion or so cost paid for in part through auctioning broadcast spectrum to wireless companies and requiring federal workers to contribute more toward their pensions.

Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, said it was described to lawmakers as a tentative agreement.

The payroll tax cut and renewing jobless benefits were key planks in Obama's jobs program, which was announced in September. The payroll tax cut benefits 160 million Americans and delivers a tax cut of about \$20 a week for a typical worker making \$50,000 a year. People making a \$100,000 salary would get a \$2,000 tax cut.

The deal would not only be a win for Obama but would take the payroll tax fight—which put Republicans on the defensive—off the table for the fall election campaign.

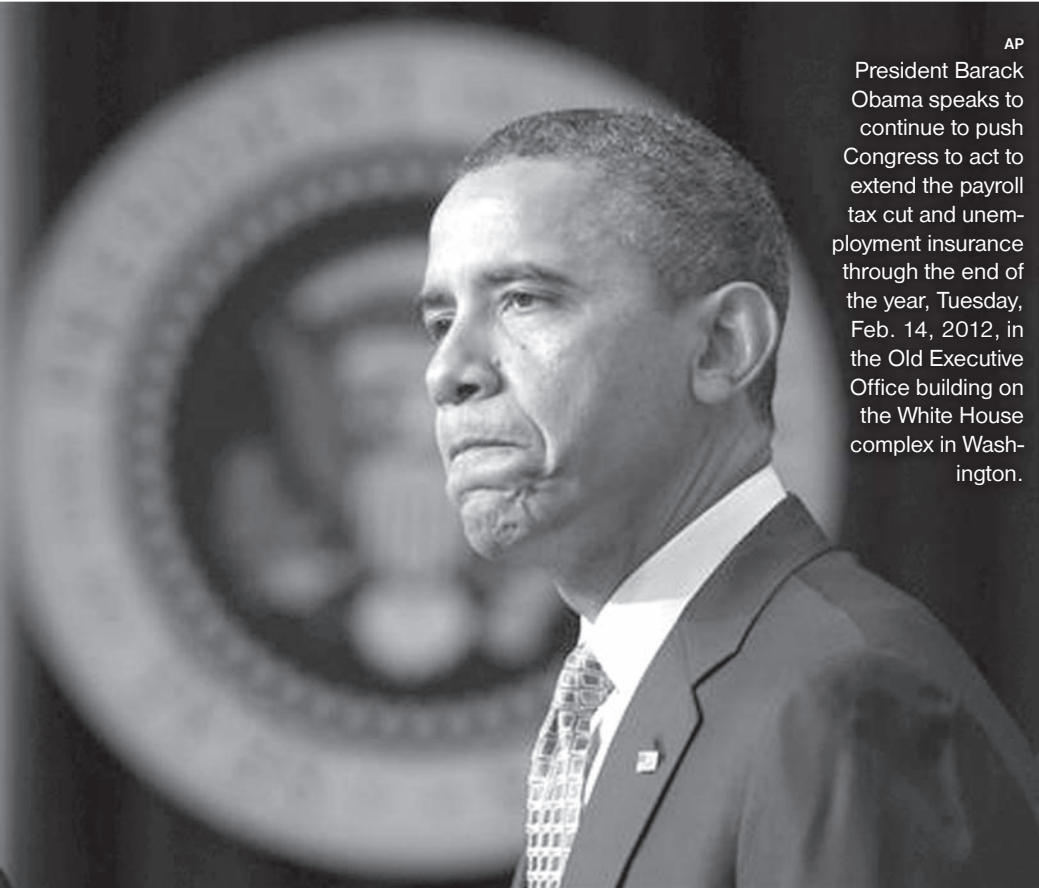
"The mood is to get it off the table," freshman Rep. Dennis Ross, R-Fla., said. "We've got to move on to another issue."

The agreement also would avert a huge cut in Medicare payments to doctors, financed by cuts elsewhere in the federal health care budget, GOP and Democratic aides said.

The pact received a mixed but generally positive reception from rank and file House Republicans, who discussed the matter at a meeting Tuesday evening.

Aides in both parties said Senate Democrats were largely rebuffed in an effort to renew a package of expired tax breaks for individuals and businesses, including clean energy tax credits cherished by Democrats. A tax break sought by businesses that purchase new equipment was dropped as well.

A GOP aide, who requested anonymity to discuss the talks, said negotiators were finalizing an agreement on reducing the number of weeks jobless workers would be eligible to receive unemployment benefits to a maximum of 63 weeks in most states. People in states with very high unemployment rates would be eligible additional weeks. Maximum benefits are now 99 weeks in states with the highest jobless rates.



AP
President Barack Obama speaks to continue to push Congress to act to extend the payroll tax cut and unemployment insurance through the end of the year, Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012, in the Old Executive Office building on the White House complex in Washington.

Roche warns of counterfeit cancer drug in US

WASHINGTON (AP)—The maker of the widely prescribed cancer drug Avastin is warning doctors and patients about counterfeit vials of the product that have been distributed in the U.S.

Roche's Genentech unit said Tuesday that the fake products do not contain the key ingredient in Avastin, which is used to treat cancers of the colon, lung, kidney and brain. The drug is a huge money-maker for Roche, generating about \$6 billion a year.

A spokeswoman said the counterfeit drug has been distributed to health care facilities in the U.S., though it's unclear how many vials are in circulation or where they may be concentrated. The company is working with the Food and Drug Administration to track down the counterfeit vials and analyze their contents.

"We're still analyzing what it is, we know it doesn't contain the active ingredient in Avastin," said Genentech spokeswoman Charlotte Arnold.

Avastin is administered in doctor's offices and hospitals.

"It's an infused medicine and not something a patient would have in their hands, so it's really health care providers who should be on the lookout," Arnold said.

The counterfeit products do not have "Genentech" printed on their packaging, which appears on all FDA-approved cartons and vials of the drug. Additionally, legitimate Avastin contains a six-digit lot number with no letters. All the packaging text should be in English.

The company believes drugs labeled with the following lot numbers may be fake: B86017, B6011 and B6010.

In a related action, the FDA said late Tuesday it has contacted 19 medical practices that may have purchased unapproved drugs, including counterfeit Avastin, from a company called Quality Specialty Products. The foreign supply company may also do business as Montana Health Care Solutions, the agency said.

"FDA has requested that the medical practices stop using any remaining products from these suppliers," the FDA said in a statement. Genentech said the suppliers listed by the FDA are not authorized to distribute Avastin.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Airlines forecast to buy \$3.5T of new jets by 2030

SINGAPORE (AP)—Global airlines will need \$3.5 trillion of new planes through 2030, with more than a third of that demand coming from Asia, Airbus's chief executive said Wednesday. The aviation industry will require 27,800 new planes, each with more than 100 seats, between 2010 and 2030 while Asia will likely take delivery of about 9,370 of those planes worth \$1.3 trillion, CEO Tom Enders said. "Our business isn't moving to the East, it has moved to the East," Enders said during a news conference at the Singapore Airshow. "We're focused on Asia because that's where most of our growth comes from."

Buffett's firm adds to Wells Fargo stake, cuts J&J

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Warren Buffett's company boosted its already sizeable stake in Wells Fargo & Co. last year and sold shares of Johnson & Johnson and Kraft Foods, according to documents the company filed Tuesday with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Berkshire Hathaway Inc. revealed a number of adjustments in its

\$66.2 billion stock portfolio during the fourth quarter. It purchased 46.6 million Wells Fargo shares during the fourth quarter to give it 408 million shares and control of 7.7 percent of the banking giant, a stake worth \$12.41 billion at the close of business Tuesday.

Yahoo faces investor mutiny as Asia talks unravel

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Yahoo's hopes for a fresh start under a new CEO faded Tuesday as its closely watched discussions to sell most of its Asian holdings unraveled and a frustrated shareholder announced that he will try to seize four seats on the struggling Internet company's board. The developments, which unfolded within a few hours of each other, mean Yahoo's recently hired CEO Scott Thompson will have to deal with more uncertainty and potential upheaval than he probably would have liked as he tries to end a strategic and financial malaise that has depressed the company's stock price for years. "The honeymoon is already over," said BGC Financial analyst Colin Gillis. "Yahoo is probably looking at another year of turmoil."

GOP critics hit Obama's \$3.8 trillion budget

WASHINGTON (AP)—Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told Congress Tuesday that the president's new \$3.8 trillion spending plan would impose new taxes on only 2 percent of the nation's wealthiest families and the alternative would be to seek more painful cuts in other government programs such as defense, Social Security and Medicare.

Geithner defended the new budget plan in the face of intense attacks from GOP members of the Senate Finance Committee. Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah told Geithner that the administration's spending plan would give the country a "permanently larger, European-inspired government."

But Geithner said deeper spending cuts now would damage economic growth and push more Americans into poverty at a time when the economy is still struggling to recover from a deep recession.

Geithner told the committee that the administration hopes to send Congress next week a framework for making changes in the country's corporate tax structure.

He said the administration would not offer detailed legislative language but rather broad principles for corporate tax reform. He said the administration would propose eliminating a number of current business tax breaks in an effort to lower the corporate tax rate.

The nominal U.S. corporate tax rate is 35 percent, the highest in the world after Japan, but few companies pay that much after taking various deductions.

Obama has proposed lowering that tax rate but has not said by how much it should be lowered. The president has also proposed ending tax breaks for U.S. companies moving jobs or profits to foreign countries while suggesting tax breaks for businesses that move jobs back to the United States.

Geithner did not offer any hints about what recommendations the administration will make on corporate rates in its submission to Congress.

Congress may put off the tough decisions on the budget until after the November elections, but the spending document will certainly be used as a campaign document for Obama and a key target for Republicans running against Democrats.

Republican Mitt Romney, who is campaigning for the GOP nomination to challenge Obama in the fall, called the budget Obama released Monday "an insult to the American taxpayer." GOP candidates Rick Santorum, Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul are all advocating bigger spending cuts to control the deficits, and all the GOP candidates oppose Obama's tax increases.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
12,878.28
+4.24
+0.03%

S&P
1,350.50
-1.27
-0.09%

NASDAQ
2,931.83
+0.44
+0.02%

EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7538	Philippine Peso	42.6375
Australian Dollar	0.9307	Singapore Dollar	1.2586
British Pound	0.6358	South Korean Won	1121.4
Canadian Dollar	0.9951	Swiss Franc	0.9166
Chinese Yuan	6.3018	Taiwan Dollar	29.4915
Euro	0.7587	Thailand Baht	30.83

Nation

Santorum revels in sudden support—but how deep?

BOISE, Idaho. (AP)—The latest Republican to surge in polls, Rick Santorum is trying to turn his newfound strength into something lasting.

Curious Republicans now pack his rallies. Supporters have funneled nearly \$4 million to his formerly empty campaign account over the past seven days. And his staff is plotting an aggressive strategy to challenge Mitt Romney in Romney's native Michigan and beyond.

But things don't look so strong just beneath the surface.

Santorum is underfunded and outmaneuvered. He's still lacking in organization, a month and a half into the primary season. And, after he won three contests in a single day last week, his opponents—on the right and the left—have begun their own efforts to tear him down.

An upbeat Santorum declared "We're building" in a brief interview in Tacoma, Wash., on Tuesday before heading to Idaho for campaign events. "We've

got a great volunteer base. In some states we're going to have staff. Other states we aren't. We're going to use volunteers."

His challenges were on display this week in Tacoma, where hundreds of supporters waited on cold, wet cement stairs in the dark to see the Republican presidential candidate with whom they're barely familiar.

"I don't know a lot about him, except I know he's more conservative than some of the other candidates like Mitt Romney," said Tanya Franklin, a 54-year-old airline reservationist, who says she'll probably vote for Santorum in her state's March 3 caucuses.

The former Pennsylvania senator has surged to a virtual tie with Romney in nationwide polling following his surprising sweep in Colorado, Minnesota and Missouri last week. But, as Franklin suggests, his popularity may have less to do with who he is than who he isn't. Santorum is not Romney. And with



Republican presidential candidate, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, speaks at a rally, Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. AP

Newt Gingrich's recent decline, that's enough for some conservatives—at least for now.

Santorum had 30 percent

support to 28 percent for Romney in a national poll released this week by the Pew Research Center. But the same poll said 31 percent of all adults had never heard of or couldn't rate him. That's a significantly higher number than for Romney, Gingrich, or Ron Paul. Even among Republicans, one in five told Pew they didn't know enough about Santorum to rate him.

Romney and others are now working to make sure that changes.

The long-time front-runner for the nomination, Romney has deployed surrogates such as a former Santorum Senate colleague, Jim Talent of Missouri, to attack Santorum's support for earmarks in Congress. The conservative Club for Growth has been equally critical. And Romney has been aggressive

on the campaign trail, suggesting in recent days that Santorum and Gingrich represent the kind of overspending Washington insiders the tea party abhors.

At the same time, left-leaning groups such as the Center for American Progress and Emily's List are going after Santorum's comments on women. A staunch social conservative, Santorum has been critical of women serving in combat and sometimes in the workplace.

"Sadly the propaganda campaign launched in the 1960s has taken root," reads a passage in Santorum's book. "The radical feminists succeeded in undermining the traditional family and convincing women that professional accomplishments are the key to happiness."

"These things that Rick Santorum is attacking are broadly supported by women and

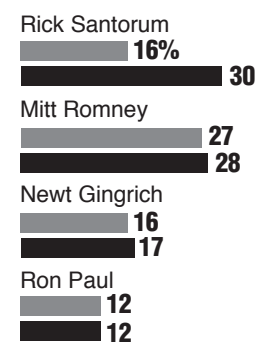
ELECTION 2012

Polling ahead

Rick Santorum, surging with tea party support, is now in a dead heat with Mitt Romney among Republican voters.

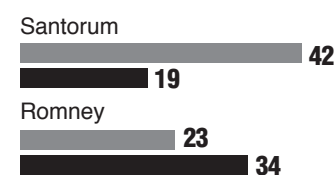
GOP nomination preference among Republican and leaning Republicans

■ Jan 4-8 ■ Feb. 8-12



Tea party support

■ Tea party ■ Not tea party



© 2012 MCT
Source: Pew Research Center Poll of 1,501 adults, Feb. 8-12, 2012; margin of error: +/- 6.0 percentage points
Graphic: Samantha Piccirillo

American families," said Tara McGuinness of the Center for American Progress. "It isn't 1952. Most American families have two working parents."

Santorum says he's not going to sit back and just take such shots.

On Tuesday, he began running ads on Fox News Channel in Michigan. It was a signal to supporters—and to donors—that Santorum planned to contest the state where Romney grew up and his father served as governor.

Republicans take Solyndra message to Obama

WASHINGTON (AP)—If you want a window into how outside Republican groups are likely to assail President Barack Obama's record this year, look no further than how the GOP is lambasting the administration's handling of solar company Solyndra.

Republicans have used Obama's ties to the bankrupt California manufacturer to argue that he plays the same political games that have consumed Washington for generations—and has failed to live up to promises to change the nation's capital. It's the message GOP-leaning outside groups are promoting in advertising campaigns in states critical to the Democrat's reelection race.

"Tell President Obama American workers aren't pawns in your political

games," says one ad run by Americans for Prosperity, a conservative group linked to billionaire oil industry executives Charles and David Koch.

Such ads were among the warning signs the Obama campaign saw before it decided to encourage its donors to financially support a Democratic-leaning super PAC, Priorities USA. The announcement came as outside groups supporting Republican Mitt Romney heaped criticism on rival Newt Gingrich before the Iowa caucuses and in early primary states, a preview of what could confront Obama once the GOP primaries are settled.

For Republicans hoping to unseat Obama, Solyndra has become a code word for his handling of the economy.

Obama visited the company two years ago, lauding it

for "leading the way toward a brighter and more prosperous future." It received more than \$500 million in federal loans, becoming the first alternative energy company to receive a loan guarantee under a stimulus-law program the Obama administration highlighted as a way to foster green jobs.

But in September 2011, the company went belly up, resulting in the loss of 1,100 jobs and turning the little-known firm into a campaign catchphrase for Republicans challenging Obama. Republicans have sought to highlight the connection between Obama fundraisers and the company, arguing that the president used government policies to benefit campaign supporters—and, thus, was no different than the typical Washington politician he promised not to become.

Valentine's Day couples tour Brooklyn sewage plant

NEW YORK (AP)—All across America, men gave their sweethearts flowers and chocolates for Valentine's Day. Michael Jennings gave his girlfriend something more memorable, if less fragrant: a tour of a Brooklyn sewage plant.

Love was not the only thing in the air Tuesday as about 100 people ventured out to the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant for a free guided tour that was billed by the city as an "unforgettable" way to celebrate the most romantic day of the year.

Proving, as the song says, that love stinks, the couples got a big whiff of something, and it wasn't flowers or fine perfume.

"I told her it wasn't going to

be like something romantic," said a grinning Jennings, who sprang the tour on girlfriend Nitisha Rawlings as a surprise. "I mean, it is. It's very beautiful."

She seemed to be getting a kick out of the experience.

The complex is the largest of New York City's 14 sewage treatment plants, processing 1.5 million gallons of waste every day. The city gives tours once a month to show off its odor-control technology; this time, tour day fell on Valentine's Day.

To mark the holiday, plant workers set out red and pink bins filled with Hershey's chocolate kisses for the visitors to snack on as they learned about things like sludge.

The tour began with an hour-

long slideshow on how the city has disposed of waste over the past century. Then the group peeked inside the control rooms and ascended to the top of the "digester eggs"—futuristic-looking stainless-steel globes where the waste is processed.

The couples laughed nervously when Jim Pynn, the plant's enthusiastic superintendent, called out: "Is anyone going to propose today? This is the most romantic part of the tour."

Nobody was willing to go quite that far.

"You're going to smell a little bit of the gas," Pynn said as he lifted a vent at the top of a digester egg. "It's going to be foul. But it smells like what natural gas smells like."

ACROSS THE NATION

Possible clues, no quick answers in Powell case

SEATTLE (AP)—The deaths of Josh Powell and his two sons in a gas-fueled fire this month have left investigators with a flood of potential clues in the disappearance of his wife two years ago, but it's not clear whether they're any closer to finding her. New tips have been pouring in. Detectives discovered a comforter—apparently stained with blood—he left at a storage locker. And on Sunday they found books, an unmarked map of Utah and a "testament" that Powell dumped at a landfill before he attacked his boys with a hatchet and ignited the home Feb. 5. "We'll take what we have and analyze it," Pierce County Sheriff's Detective Ed Troyer said Tuesday. "If he wrote a confession for where the body was, we'd have gone there to find it by now."

Hundreds rally against Alabama immigration law

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—Hundreds packed the Alabama Statehouse courtyard on Tuesday to rally against the state's tough immigration law, with organizers saying they chose to send a message on Valentine's Day that lawmakers need to love and respect immigrants. People bused in from across the state to demand repeal

of the law that aims to be tough on those in the country illegally. Protesters carried signs, one addressing Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley, reading: "Gov. Bentley, don't you have a heart?" Other signs read: "No Juan Crow" and "Una Familia, Una Alabama." The protesters chanted in Spanish and English, "No more HB56" (the bill that became the law) and "One family, one Alabama." They delivered lollipops and Valentines to lawmakers, urging them to strike down the law.

Va. House GOP muscles through abortion curbs

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—A Republican supermajority has muscled two of the most restrictive anti-abortion bills in years through the Virginia House, including one that would all but outlaw the procedure in the state by declaring that the rights of persons apply from the moment sperm and egg unite. The bills passed over bitter yet futile objections from Democrats. And one GOP delegate caused the House to ripple when he said most abortions come as "matters of lifestyle convenience." Del. Bob Marshall's House Bill 1 on personhood at conception passed on a 66-32 vote. And on a 63-36 vote, the House passed a bill that requires women to have a "transvaginal ultrasound" before undergoing abortions.

Asia

Thai police: Iranians were targeting individuals

BANGKOK (AP)—The bombs discovered in a Bangkok house after a series of blasts in the Thai capital were similar to those used in attacks on Israeli diplomats in India and Georgia, the Israeli ambassador said Wednesday.

While the targets of the bombs was not clear, “we can assume from the other experiences that we were the target,” Ambassador Itzhak Shoham told The Associated Press.

Thai police found and defused two magnetic bombs that could be stuck on vehicles after Tuesday’s blasts, he said.

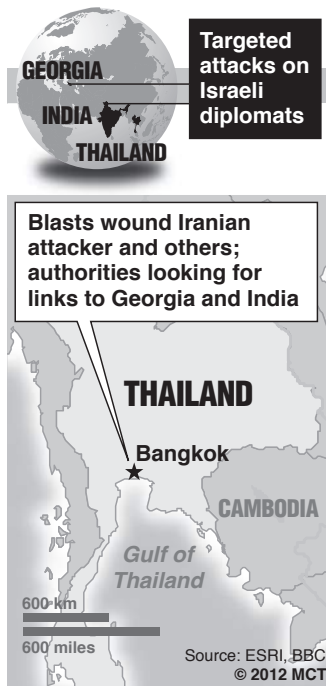
“They are similar to the ones used in Delhi and in Tbilisi,” Shoham said. “From that we can assume that there is the same network of terror.”

Israel has accused Iran of waging a covert campaign of state terror.

Shoham said the arrest of two Iranians in the blasts “again leaves not too much room to assume who was behind it.”

A bombing of an Israeli diplomatic car in New Delhi on Monday injured four people, including a diplomat’s wife. A similar bomb found under a car in Tbilisi, Georgia, on Monday was defused.

Four Thai civilians were wounded in Bangkok in a series of blasts that began when a cache of explosives ignited at a house, apparently by mistake. One explosion blew off the leg of an Iranian who had



fled, carrying what looked like grenades.

A day after the blasts in a residential neighborhood, Thai authorities said they were still investigating possible links. Top security agencies called a news conference Wednesday in which authorities admitted to being caught by surprise and said they had little information about who the alleged attackers were and their possible targets.

National Security Council chief Wichean Potephosree said authorities had not determined if there was any link between the explosions in Bangkok and the events in New Delhi and Tbilisi.

“We haven’t found any links but we are still investigating,” Wichean said. “We admit there was magnetic component, aiming at individuals, but the

origin of the magnets still has to be investigated.”

When police searched the house, the bomb squad found and defused two explosives,

each made of three or four pounds of C-4 explosives inside a pair of radios.

Wichean said that the types of explosives found suggested that

individuals were being targeted.

“From the investigation, we found the type of explosives indicated that the prepared targets were individuals,” Wichean said. “Based on the equipment and materials we found, they were aimed at individuals and the destruction capacity was not intended for large crowds or big buildings.”

The wounded Iranian was in police custody at a Bangkok hospital. Immigration police detained a second Iranian as he tried to board a flight for Malaysia.

Both men were facing four charges, including possession of explosives, attempted murder, attempted murder of a policeman and causing explosions that damaged property, Prewpan said.

Security forces were searching for a third Iranian suspect.

Israel’s Channel 10 TV quoted unidentified Thai authorities as saying the captured Iranians confessed to targeting Israeli interests.



A Thai Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) official makes a check on a backpack that was left on the bomb site by a suspect bomber in Bangkok, Thailand Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012.

New statue depicts late NKorea leader on horseback

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—Coat flying open, reins in hand, Kim Jong Il is depicted astride a galloping horse in a larger-than-life statue unveiled Tuesday as part of birthday celebrations for the late North Korean leader.

The statue is the first bronze casting of Kim, who during his lifetime shunned proposals to erect a bronze like the massive statue of his father, North Korea

founder Kim Il Sung, that towers over downtown Pyongyang. Kim Jong Il, who would have turned 70 on Thursday, died of a heart attack in December.

Kim Jong Il told officials in 1999 that he wasn’t ready to accept such adulation while his promise of building an affluent society in the nation of 24 million remained unfulfilled, according to excerpts from a speech published last month. During Kim’s

reign, the country suffered from a famine that killed hundreds of thousands of North Koreans.

In a posthumous compromise, artisans from the Mansudae Art Studio depicted the Kims riding side by side on horseback for Pyongyang’s first public sculpture of the late leader. But artisans told The Associated Press that a towering bronze of Kim Jong Il is in the works and will take its place on Mansu Hill.

Tuesday’s widely anticipated unveiling of the 18-foot-tall (5.7

meters) statue took place amid a fervent propaganda campaign to build up the man who led the nation for 17 years as his son and successor, Kim Jong Un, takes over the country’s helm.

Kim Jong Il postage stamps, commemorative coins and gold medals have been rushed into production in the weeks before the birthday newly dubbed “Day of the Shining Star.” Slogans have been carved on mountainsides in honor of his birthday, and a song composed in his honor.

Pakistan allows NATO to ship food to Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan announced Tuesday that it has temporarily allowed NATO to ship perishable food to its troops in Afghanistan, a sign of thawing tensions following American airstrikes last year that accidentally killed 24 Pakistani soldiers.

Pakistan closed its Afghan border to NATO supplies in response to the deadly Nov. 26 attack on two of its border posts. The closure has been a headache for coalition forces, who have had to spend much more money to get goods to Afghanistan using alternative routes.

Pakistani Defense Minister Ahmed Mukhtar said the government would only allow NATO to ship perishable items for a limited time and has asked the coalition not to order any more. He did not indicate when the approval was given.

The U.S. and Pakistan still disagree over who should be blamed for the November

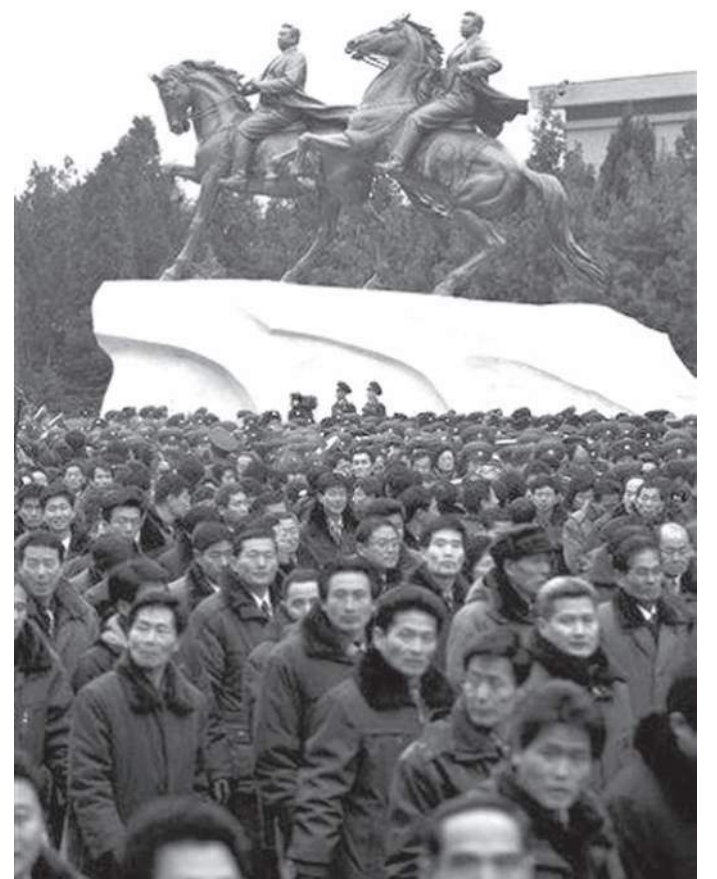
attack, but there have been growing signs that relations are improving.

There was a temporary hiccup in that process Tuesday when Pakistani police briefly detained a U.S. Embassy employee after bullets were found in his luggage at an airport in the country’s northwest. But the man was handed over to American officials after a couple hours.

The move to allow food items to enter Afghanistan could be a precursor to opening the border altogether.

Pakistan’s parliament is expected to vote on a revised framework for relations with the U.S. this week that could pave the way for the government to reopen the supply line.

Also, senior Pakistani officials have said in recent days that the government should fully reopen its border to NATO supplies as long as it can negotiate better fees from the coalition.



North Koreans leave the grounds of the Mansudae Art Studio in Pyongyang after watching the unveiling of a new bronze statue depicting the late leader Kim Jong Il and his father Kim Il Sung on Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippines arrests doctor in \$3M US fraud case

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine government agents have arrested a doctor accused of defrauding a California health care program of more than \$3 million. National Bureau of Investigation official Claro de Castro Jr. said Tuesday that Dr. Eric Chan was apprehended inside a military camp in metropolitan Manila. Chan is a medical corp reservist of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. De Castro says Chan fled the U.S. to evade arrest and prosecution for cases including grand theft before the Los Angeles Superior Court. Clinics he owned allegedly collected payments from California’s Medi-Cal program by presenting false medical claims.

Maldives museum reopens minus smashed Hindu images

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—The Maldives’ national museum reopened Tuesday without some of its most valuable exhibits a week after a mob of suspected religious extremists smashed images from the pre-Islamic era of this Indian Ocean archipelago. About 35 exhibits—mostly images of Buddha and Hindu gods—were destroyed. Some of the artifacts dated to the sixth century, museum director Ali Waheed said. Waheed says 99 percent of the Maldives’ pre-Islamic artifacts from before the 12th century, when most inhabitants were Buddhists or Hindus, were destroyed. “Some of the pieces can be put together but mostly they are made of sandstone, coral and limestone, and they are reduced to powder,” he said.

China taps law enforcer to run uneasy Tibetan area

BEIJING (AP)—China is tapping a career law-and-order official to run a Tibetan area at the center of self-immolations and protests against Chinese rule. Liu Zuoming took up his post as Communist Party secretary of Sichuan province’s Aba prefecture over the weekend. He told regional officials at the meeting that they must take a hard line against unrest. Liu, who is 54, spent the past three decades working his way up the law enforcement bureaucracy in Sichuan and headed the province’s justice bureau before his new appointment.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Libyan militias parade through Tripoli

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Thousands of fighters from across western Libya have held a mass parade in Tripoli, showing off heavy machine guns and rocket launchers and firing rifles in the air. The procession Tuesday was a show of force by members of some 100 militias that announced a new, unified military council the day before. It appeared intended as a warning to anyone who might stage attacks during celebrations this week of the one-year anniversary of the start of the uprising that ended with the death of Moammar Gadhafi last October.

Guatemala president calls hunger a security issue

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—Guatemala's first president with a military background in 25 years said Tuesday the drug war can't be won with arms alone, and pledged that his administration will focus on fighting hunger, which he called a security problem. In an interview with The Associated Press one day after he promised to propose legalizing drugs in Guatemala, President Otto Perez Molina said Guatemala isn't following U.S. orders, despite American opposition to legalization. "We are not doing what the United States says, we are doing what we have to do," said Perez, who was elected on promises of an "iron-fist" approach to rampant crime and surprised observers by proposing drug legalization.

Bahrain Shiites mark revolt anniversary

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—Bahraini security forces fanned out across the island nation in unprecedented numbers on Tuesday as Shiites marked the one-year anniversary of their uprising against the country's Sunni rulers. Authorities sent troop reinforcements and armored vehicles to the predominantly Shiite villages around the capital Manama to prevent people from gathering and answering the call of the main opposition movement, Al Wefaq. Six American members of an activist group were detained during the protests, activists and the government said. Authorities said they had violated the terms of their visa, and that they agreed to leave the country without further legal measures taken against them.

Israel blames Iran for series of Bangkok blasts

BANGKOK (AP)—Israel accused Iran of waging a covert campaign of state terror that stretched this week from the Middle East to the heart of Asia after a bungled series of explosions led to the capture of two Iranians in Bangkok.

Authorities in Israel ratcheted up security at home and abroad following Tuesday's explosions in the Thai capital, escalating a confrontation over Iran's suspect nuclear program and raising fears of war.

On Monday, an Israeli diplomat's wife and driver were wounded in New Delhi when a bomb stuck to their minivan exploded, and another device was defused on an Israeli Embassy car in Tbilisi, Georgia. Israel blamed Iran for those attacks as well.

Israel has threatened military strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, and Iran has blamed the Jewish state for the recent killings of Iranian atomic scientists.

Iran denied responsibility for the attacks in India and Georgia, which appeared to mirror the killings of the Iranian scientists that used "sticky bombs."

The series of blasts in Bangkok wounded four Thai civilians and blew off the leg of an Iranian who had fled a house carrying what looked like grenades after a cache of explosives ignited there, apparently by mistake.

When police searched the Iranians' home, the bomb squad found and defused two explosives, each made of three or four pounds of C-4 explosives inside a pair of radios, and National Police Chief Gen. Prewpan Damapong said the bombs were "magnetic" and could be stuck on vehicles.

The wounded Iranian was in police custody at a Bangkok hospital and immigration police detained a second Iranian as he tried to board a flight for Malaysia. Security forces hunted for a third Iranian suspect.

Divided opposition is key to Syrian regime's power

BEIRUT (AP)—At a rented house just outside Syria's border, a dissident known only as "The Doctor" maps out attacks. Planners speak by Skype with fighters on the ground in Syria, while others raise money, drumming up cash from fellow exiles to buy weapons.

The safe house offers a glimpse into the Free Syrian Army, a group of army defectors and others who are trying to overthrow President Bashar Assad by force.

The FSA has emerged as a significant hope for many Syrians who have all but given up on peaceful resistance against government tanks and snipers waging a deadly crackdown on protesters. But the group is highly decentralized—and



In this undated photo taken from a police surveillance camera and released by the Spokesman Office of the National Thai Police on Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012, a man identified by police as Iranian bomb suspect, Saeid Moradi, is seen in Bangkok, Thailand.

Israel's Channel 10 TV quoted unidentified Thai authorities as saying the captured Iranians confessed to targeting Israeli interests. The site of the

blast is just a few miles from the Israeli Embassy.

There was no comment from Iranian officials in Tehran on Tuesday's series of explosions

in Thailand.

Thai government spokeswoman Thitima Chaisaeng said "we need more analysis" to determine who was behind the attack and whether Iran was involved. She refused to comment on what the Iranians might have been planning or whether targets had been identified.

There seemed to be no doubt in the minds of Israeli officials, who blamed Iran and its Lebanese ally, Hezbollah.

"The attempted terrorist attack in Bangkok proves once again that Iran and its proxies continue to perpetrate terror," Defense Minister Ehud Barak said in Singapore. "The recent terror attacks are yet another example of this."

Iran and Hezbollah are "unrelenting terror elements endangering the stability of the region and endangering the stability of the world," added Barak, who was in Bangkok on Sunday, according to Israel's Defense Ministry.

Added Israeli Public Security Minister Yitzhak Aharonovitch, in an interview with Israel Radio: "We know who carried out the terror attacks, we know who sent them, and Israel will settle the score with them."

On Monday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel had thwarted attacks in recent months in Azerbaijan, Thailand and unspecified other countries. He blamed Iran and Hezbollah, both of which have deep grievances against the Jewish state.

Hezbollah battled Israel in the summer of 2006, and on Sunday, the Lebanese guerrilla group marked the anniversary of the 2008 assassination of one of its commanders, Imad Mughniyeh, in a bombing widely believed to have been carried out by Israel.

In Israel, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said security was heightened at public places, foreign embassies and offices, as well as Ben-Gurion International Airport. He said patrols have been stepped up and police were instructed to be especially vigilant.

The first blast in Bangkok ripped off part of the roof of an explosives-filled house where the three Iranians were staying, police said.

Surveillance video from just after that blast showed separate images of each of the three suspects walking down the middle of a residential street.

US, Europe look at fast but risky penalty on Iran

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States and Europe are considering unprecedented punishment against Iran that could immediately cripple the country's financial lifeline. But it's an extreme option in the banking world that would come with its own costs.

The Obama administration wants Iran evicted from SWIFT, an independent financial clearinghouse that is crucial to the country's overseas oil sales. That would leapfrog the current slow-pressure campaign of sanctions aimed at persuading Iran to drop what the U.S. and its allies contend is a drive toward developing and building nuclear weapons. It also perhaps would buy time for the U.S. to persuade Israel not to launch a pre-emptive military

strike on Iran this spring.

The last-resort financial effort suggests the U.S. and Europe are grasping for ways to show immediate results because economic sanctions have so far failed to force Iran back to nuclear talks.

But such a penalty could send oil prices soaring when many of the world's economies are still frail. It also could hurt ordinary Iranians and undercut the reputation of SWIFT, a banking hub used by virtually every nation and corporation around the world. The organization's full name is the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications.

Meanwhile, violence is increasing. Explosions in Bangkok on Tuesday—Israel's

defense minister labeled them an "attempted terrorist attack"—came the day after Israel accused Iran of trying to kill its diplomats in India and Georgia. Those attacks followed the recent killings of Iranian scientists.

In the financial world, the United States can't order SWIFT to kick Iran out. But it has leverage in that it can punish the Brussels-based organization's board of directors. Talks are focused now on having Europe make the first move.

Short of total expulsion, Washington and representatives of several European nations are in talks over ways to restrict Iran's use of the banking consortium to collect oil profits.

armed with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades stolen from the military or bought on the black market—or even from corrupt members of Assad's military, "The Doctor" said.

Funding comes from exiles overseas. Mohammed Jebouri, a 40-year-old Syrian who normally lives in Oslo, Norway, said he raised around \$20,000 last week from Syrian expatriates in Europe and the Middle East.

In the yard, three uniformed men were training an activist smuggled across the border, teaching him to organize protests.

Tear down posters of Assad wherever you find them, a bearded man instructed the young man. Knock on doors to rally supporters. "Shout to remind people of how Assad's criminal army is killing them and torturing their women and kids."

coordinating the smuggling of medical supplies and fighters across the border.

They map out plans and advise fighters, sometimes after consulting with fellow operatives in Jordan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the dissidents said.

But so far, they have received no material support from other governments. "We're an orphan group with a fighter surplus, but a serious deficit in weapons, ammunition and funding to finance our military operations against Assad's criminal army," said the man who asked to be identified as "The Doctor"—a nom de guerre he gained for his help in treating the wounded before he fled Syria.

The rebel fighters are mainly

comprises just one faction in a deeply divided and fractious Syrian opposition.

As the West and Arab states consider offering direct support to Assad's opponents, there are serious questions about whether any opposition group is even remotely prepared to take the helm after more than 40 years under Assad family rule.

Indeed, Assad's greatest advantage has been the weakness and lack of unity among the disparate forces opposing him.

Since the uprising began in March, a chorus of voices has risen against the regime. Besides the rebel fighters, there are distinguished exiles who hold little sway back home, aging dissidents who spent years locked in Syrian prisons and tech-savvy

young people desperate to cast off a suffocating dictatorship.

Also within opposition ranks are various ideologies and motivations, from secular forces to religious conservatives to outright radicals. Separately, there are worries that al-Qaida will take advantage of the chaos to increase its clout and carry out attacks on Assad's regime.

The FSA allowed the Associated Press to visit one of its safe houses outside Syria on condition its location not be identified to avoid problems with the host country. The simple rented house is one of several the group operates in neighboring nations.

About 50 dissidents were gathered there, some communicating with commanders in the field via Skype, others

Focus

ABA, China—The monk reached into the folds of his red robe, pulled out a small notebook, and gently slipped from its pages a tiny photograph.

The man in the creased picture was a relative. He used to be a fellow monk at the monastery perched in snow-wrapped mountains outside the town of Abo. Then a Chinese security officer killed him, the monk said.

It is a sorrow that cannot be spoken of in public. A local government “working team” visits the monastery often, looking for signs of discontent, according to monks there. Sometimes, they said, when returning to their living quarters from chanting or studying, the monks find a door busted in and possessions scattered after a search.

The monk showed the snapshot as a way of explaining why ethnic Tibetans, mostly current or former Buddhist clergy, are setting themselves on fire in Abo and surrounding regions in an unprecedented show of protest against Chinese rule. Since March 2011, between 20 and 24 have committed self-immolations, according to rights groups. Of those, at least 13 are said to have died.

“China in our eyes is not fair or peaceful,” said the monk, a man in his early 40s who, like every ethnic Tibetan interviewed for this story, did so on the condition that he not be named and that certain details be withheld, for fear of getting dragged off by police. “We are suffering a lot in our hearts, and when we can no longer bear it we burn ourselves to death.”

The Chinese government and its media have confirmed some of the self-immolations and denied others. But the government also goes to extensive lengths to prevent outsiders from visiting this area. Police routinely block roads, search vehicles and turn back foreigners, especially journalists.

A McClatchy Newspapers reporter last week became the first from an American news organization to make it to Abo since the chain of self-immolations began. To do so, he hid on the rear floor of a vehicle under two backpacks and a sleeping bag as it passed through multiple checkpoints.

Beijing has long blamed unrest in ethnic Tibetan areas on conspiracies hatched by the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader who fled to India after a failed uprising against Chinese rule in 1959.

But conversations with ethnic Tibetans here and elsewhere in Sichuan province, where almost all of the self-immolations have occurred, suggest that China’s authoritarian policies designed to tamp down disorder are fueling the troubles.

As the nation’s vice president and presumptive next leader, Xi Jinping, tours the United States this week amid talk of greater understanding, his government at home continues to flood a wide swath of ethnic Tibetan lands with armed troops.

At the entrance to Abo last week, at least seven police officers manned a checkpoint. When an SUV approached with a Han Chinese man in the front seat, it was allowed to pass without a question—as the McClatchy Newspapers reporter lay in the back.

Ethnic Tibetans face tougher scrutiny. One Tibetan from a nearby village described the interior of his taxi being almost ripped apart during a search at the entry of Abo, which is known in Tibetan as Ngaba.

About the same time the reporter entered Abo on Saturday, an 18-year-old



Tibetan Buddhist exiles offer prayers as they light butter lamps to show solidarity with Tibetans who have either set themselves on fire or were allegedly injured or killed in clashes with Chinese police, in New Delhi, India, Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012.

Rare visit to remote Chinese region shows depth of Tibetan despair

By TOM LASSETER
MCCATCHY NEWSPAPERS

woman in a nunnery near the town’s outskirts was setting herself on fire. The ethnic Tibetan nun, Tenzin Choe-don, reportedly called out slogans against the government as the flames took her life.

Sections of the town famous for its Tibetan Buddhist monasteries have come to resemble an armed camp. A few blocks from the entrance, paramilitary police stood behind riot gates with shotguns and assault rifles. Three large troop-carrier trucks sat on the side of the road, flanked by more men with guns. Up ahead, traffic wound through further riot gates and troop positions not unlike those used in counterinsurgency efforts.

The security was so dense that it was impossible to speak with clergy or, indeed, anyone in Abo because of the risk of bringing danger to those interviewed. The Internet had been shut off and efforts to send text messages from Abo failed repeatedly.

Police roadblocks and patrols in the region begin just outside the city of Chengdu, hundreds of miles away. Even in that sprawling metropolis, Chengdu’s main Tibetan quarter is stacked with police who stand guard outside restaurants and shops that sell incense and religious paraphernalia.

An attempt in November to reach Abo ended with a McClatchy reporter being held and questioned by Chinese

police for two hours before he was released and told to return to Beijing.

Abo, in the high mountains and mist, gained international attention as an epicenter of Tibetan turmoil last March when a monk from the Kirti monastery lit himself ablaze. He was reportedly commemorating the third anniversary

of hospitals, roads and schools in Tibet, which is referred to by Beijing as an autonomous region, and nearby areas like those in Sichuan.

Or as a billboard depicting green fields and blue waters outside Maierma Township, approximately 20 miles from Abo, puts it: “Building a civilized, new Abo together.”

Many ethnic Tibetans recognize the benefits of the government’s projects. But they chafe at the government’s restrictions on free expression of their culture and religious practices, and they speak of anguish over being separated from the Dalai Lama.

The lingering threat of police showing up at their doorstep has by all accounts made the situation even more complicated for ethnic Tibetans.

“If you say the government is not treating us well, that’s not completely true, they are providing us with good things,” said a 26-year-old small-time trader in Hongyuan, which sits 65 miles or more to the east of Abo, depending on which winding road is taken. “But on the other side, the police are behaving badly. We don’t know what to say about the situation.”

The man, in a brown leather coat and sunglasses pushed up his forehead, thought it over and then said, “You should talk with somebody in Abo.”

His younger brother, sitting in the family’s living room under a single light bulb, spoke up: “Of course things are not good, they are killing people.”

The brothers turned to their father, a man in his late 40s who had a green camouflage jacket slung over his shoulders and a cigarette in hand.

Why were Tibetans self-immolating?

The father first wanted it made clear that he would not “take legal responsibility” for his words, and then said, “The Chinese government issues messages that these things are happening because of foreign plots, but of course the people lighting themselves on fire are local people ...”

The father paused and looked at the small stove in front of him, which was heating the room with burning stacks of yak dung.

The younger brother, in his early 20s and with plans to move to a bigger city, finished the sentence with an assertion that no one contradicted.

“The people lighting themselves on fire do it because they are suffering ... or because one of their family members has been killed by the government and they are now filled with hatred,” he said. “They are doing these things because they want to express their pain and their hardship.”

The majority of Tibetans approached in the area said they couldn’t discuss such issues.

One herder near the town of Chali, about 30 miles east of Abo, gestured for a reporter to follow him to his house. Once inside, the 67-year-old man with tough, thick hands shook his head, saying, “I’m sorry, I’m sorry, I don’t dare talk about this.”

Walking back out across a field, the herder in brown corduroy pants and a dark winter jacket had a piece of advice: Listen to what the monks have to say.

The monk with the dead relative had marched in a demonstration against the Chinese government during the tumult of March 2008. When the police later came, the monk said, they surrounded the monastery and threatened to destroy it if those who had participated in the incident didn’t turn themselves in.

Official documents describing his arrest said that he and others had taken part in an action that “disrupted public order” and caused a traffic jam. The monk keeps the papers tucked in a plastic bag even though they are written in Mandarin, a language he doesn’t understand well.

The monk said he was held in jail and fed such small amounts of thin porridge that it became difficult to stand up. He was then transferred to a reform-through-labor camp. “They told me that the Dalai Lama group is an obstacle to our road to peace,” said the monk, who was reluctant to describe the nearly two-year experience.

His relative never made it back—he died in custody, the result of being beaten in the head and then not receiving medical treatment, according to the monk and others at the monastery.

The monk returned to the area near Abo in 2010. Much was as he left it. Candles made of yak-butter still flicker in the night. Old men patiently twirl prayer wheels. Young monks with freshly shaven heads scamper up and down steep hillsides.

The monk found that one of his framed pictures of the Dalai Lama had survived in a hiding spot. The glass was cracked and missing a piece, but the rainbow-colored frame and the image itself were intact.

With the ongoing government searches and his record of jail time, having the photograph around could be hazardous for the monk.

He kept it anyway.

Tibetans’ fiery protests

Since March 2011, about two dozen Tibetan monks and nuns have set themselves on fire in protest of Chinese rule. Map locates the sites and the number of self-immolations:



ry of 2008 demonstrations and riots across the Tibetan Plateau, including Abo, which ended in bloodshed.

After that self-immolation, some 300 other monks were allegedly hauled away from Kirti in trucks, sparking concern from the United Nations.

Chinese officials point out that they have spent billions of dollars construct-

Environment

ENERGY MYTHBUSTING

The truth about those energy-saving tips

By MARY BETH BRECKENRIDGE
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

You've read the energy-saving tips. You've armed yourself with caulk. You're ready to do some serious damage to your gas and electric bills.

Not so fast.

Some common recommendations for cutting energy use don't save as much as we're led to believe, said Michael Blasnik, a building-science consultant from the Boston area. Blasnik analyzes and evaluates energy efficiency claims, and he's found that some widely cited savings don't hold up to scrutiny.

"A lot of things have really not been evaluated. ... It's remarkable how little research has been done on what really saves energy," Blasnik said.

He's out to change that. In an effort to figure out what really works, he's done analysis that includes studying the utility bills of homeowners who participate in home weatherization programs and comparing their savings to the expectations offered by such sources as government agencies, utility companies and, yes, newspaper articles.

In the process, he's busting some energy-saving myths.

That's not to say those things aren't worth doing. Some might make your home cleaner or more comfortable, or they may be important to maintaining what you own. And there's an argument to be made that even tiny savings add up for the greater good.

What's more, Blasnik is quick to note that variables such as how we live, how our homes are built and the climates we live in make it impossible to come up with exact numbers across the board.

But the bottom line is if you undertake some energy-saving mea-

So what does save energy in a home?

Not surprisingly, consultant Michael Blasnik urges homeowners to have a blower door test done and to address big issues such as sealing attic leaks and insulating attics and walls. And other big-ticket projects such as replacing really old refrigerators, clothes washers and furnaces with highly efficient models can yield significant energy savings, he said.

But smaller steps can pay off handsomely, too.

Here are some low-cost, low-effort measures that can make a noticeable difference in your energy bills:

■ **Unplug an underused refrigerator.** Often the fridge in the basement or garage is an older, inefficient model. Taking it out of service saves an average of \$128 a year, according to the figures in Blasnik's Concord study.

Likewise, unplugging a free-standing freezer would save an

average of \$96 annually. When you weigh the electricity cost against the savings from buying in bulk, the freezer may not be worth it, he said.

ENERGY TRUTHS

Small changes can pay off big

By MARY BETH BRECKENRIDGE
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

■ **Change the thermostat when you're asleep or away.** Turning the heat down 8 degrees for eight hours a day saves an average of \$84 a year, although the savings are smaller in a highly efficient home. Get a programmable thermostat, and you won't even have to think about it.

The savings are even bigger when you turn up the temperature on an air conditioning system, Blasnik said.

■ **Set the air conditioner fan on automatic.** The air handler fan generates a lot of heat, which warms your home and

makes the air conditioner work harder in summer, Blasnik said. What's more, depending on how your house is designed, you may have air ducts in unconditioned areas of your home, and the fan can accelerate the loss of heated or cooled air through leaky ducts. Switching the fan from on to automatic year-round will save a whopping \$480 a year, on average.

■ **Activate your computer's sleep mode.** Just because your monitor goes to sleep after a period of inactivity, it doesn't necessarily mean your hard drive does, too. Blasnik recommended checking your computer's power options to make sure it powers down when it's not in use, saving an average of \$80 a year. On computers using Win-

dows, look in the control panel. That's a bigger issue with desktop computers than portable devices such as laptops and iPads, he said. Manufacturers usually make portable computers more efficient to extend battery life.

■ **Turn off the TV when you're not watching.** Some people keep the TV on for background noise. If you can break that habit, you'll save an average of \$96 a year.

■ **Switch to efficient lighting.** Replacing standard incandescent bulbs in your 15 most-used lights with compact fluorescent bulbs will save an average of \$96 in electricity, "if you can stand them," Blasnik said.

He understands people who can't. His wife is one of them. That's why he likes LED lighting. It's still fairly expensive upfront, but incentives in his state recently allowed him to replace his can lights with LED retrofits for just \$25 each. "They passed my wife's test," he said.

back when refrigerators gobbled electricity, but Blasnik said that's no longer generally true.

Most refrigerators built in the last 15 years use far less power than older models. So say your fridge uses \$70 in electricity in a year. Cleaning your coils might make the refrigerator operate 10 percent more efficiently, but that's an annual saving of just \$7, he pointed out.

"I wouldn't say, 'Don't clean your refrigerator coils,'" Blasnik said. But don't expect to see a big difference in your electricity bill.

UNPLUGGING CELL PHONE CHARGERS

You've probably heard about vampire power, which is the standby electricity that's used even when devices are turned off or aren't actively operating. That was a problem five or 10 years ago and still is with some devices, Blasnik said, but in many cases manufacturers have greatly reduced that power use.

That's the case with cell phone chargers.

Blasnik said today's chargers use an unmeasurably small amount of electricity when they're not charging phones — "in the cents per year," he said. So leaving yours plugged in when it's not in use won't break your energy budget.

CLOSING DRAPES AT NIGHT

Closing window treatments such as draperies, shades and blinds at night may make you more comfortable because they divert the flow of cold air. But Blasnik said that with standard window treatments, that air still gets in.

On the other hand, opening window treatments on sunny days does save some energy, he said. The heat from the sun offsets heat loss through the window.

REPLACING WINDOWS

A lot of good arguments can be made for replacing old, leaky windows. They'll make your home more comfortable. They can solve condensation problems and prevent moisture damage. They might boost your home's resale value.

But they won't pay for themselves in energy savings, Blasnik said.

In a study he completed for Concord Municipal Light in the Boston area, he determined that replacing 15 old windows would

WEATHER-SEALING WINDOWS AND DOORS

Caulking and weatherstripping windows and doors is a better idea for increasing comfort than saving energy, Blasnik said.

Maybe 20 percent of the air leakage in a house is through the windows and doors — even less in a newer, tighter home, he said. Blasnik said the bulk of the leakage in a typical home is from air coming into the basement, traveling up through wall cavities and escaping through the attic.

In his research, caulking and weatherstripping doors and win-

Do Your Part: Green goes high tech

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

We've all heard the excuses about going green—it's too time consuming, too expensive, and just too difficult. Now, some high tech tools are making it downright easy to be energy efficient and save money. Do Your Part to find out which ones you can incorporate into your family's life to make a powerful impact.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

It takes a whole lot of energy to run a household. Consider your heating and cooling systems, appliances, and electronics. The average single-family household racks up more than \$2,000 in energy bills each year. There are home electricity monitors

that make it easy to see how much energy you use and what you spend on it. A device called The Energy Detective can monitor the energy your home consumes in real time and the exact amount it's costing you. You can chart 10 years worth of data and even review your information remotely. The basic model costs around \$200. Then, there are free ways to help you see what's using the most energy at home and help you target those hot spots. MyEnergy.com compiles your specific information directly from your utility companies and is able to compare your usage to that of some of your neighbors. You can also earn reward points for using less energy.

HIT THE ENERGY HOGS

Now that you know how much

energy you're really using at home, it's time to hit those energy hogs and hit them hard. I recommend starting with making your heating and cooling systems more efficient. So-called "smart" thermostats are now available and are super easy to use. The Nest thermostat is one such device that actually learns from your family's behavior. Soon after installation, it will automatically begin to lower or increase the temperature when you go to bed or leave the house. It even allows you to look at its daily energy use and access the thermostat from your computer or smartphone. There are also other intuitive devices to help you reduce your energy consumption at home. A power strip for sale by Belkin will shut down power



MCT

Some high tech tools are making it downright easy to be energy efficient and save money. "Do Your Part," to find out which ones you can incorporate into your family's life to make a powerful impact.

going to a series of electronics by simply turning off one of the components. This is a great solution for home offices and entertainment centers.

PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

Then, there are high tech devices to help you put it all together. EnergyHub has a product that works as a command center for

your home. You can access all your energy information in one place so you can control your thermostat, your lights, and appliances from a central home location or remotely. General Electric is also rolling out a hub system called the Nucleus that does the same thing and is compatible for homes with smart meters, too.

When you know how much energy your home is using, it's easier to come up with strategies to lower your usage and lower your utility bills. It's another important way to Do Your Part without wasting your energy.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, author, and founder of DoYourPart, everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com and follow DoYourPart on Facebook and Twitter.

Life & Style

Private funeral for Houston set for Saturday in NJ

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—Whitney Houston's funeral will be held Saturday in the church where she first showcased her singing talents as a child, her family choosing to remember her in a private service rather than in a large event at an arena.

The owner of the Whigham Funeral Home said Tuesday that the funeral will be held at noon at Newark's New Hope Baptist Church, which seats up to 1,500. Gospel singer Marvin Winans, a Grammy Award winner and longtime family friend, has been chosen to give the eulogy, his son said.

The family said no public memorial service is planned at this time. Officials had discussed the possibility of holding a memorial at the Prudential Center, a major sports and entertainment venue that can seat about 18,000 people, but the funeral home said it had been ruled out.

Funeral home owner Carolyn Whigham said the church service will be by invitation only, reflecting the family's decision to keep the memorial more personal.

"They have shared her for 30-some years with the city, with the state, with the world. This

is their time now for their farewell," she said.

"The family thanks all the fans, the friends and the media, but this time is their private time," she said.

Houston, 48, died Feb. 11 at a hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif., just hours before she was set to perform at producer Clive Davis' pre-Grammy Awards bash. Officials say she was underwater and apparently unconscious when she was pulled from a bathtub.

After an autopsy Sunday, authorities said there were no indications of foul play and no obvious signs of trauma on Houston. It could be weeks, however, before the coroner's office completes toxicology tests to establish the cause of death.

Los Angeles County coroner's assistant chief Ed Winter said bottles of prescription medicine were found in the room. He would not give details except to say: "There weren't a lot of prescription bottles. You probably have just as many prescription bottles in your medicine cabinet."

Houston's body was returned to New Jersey late Monday.

Houston was born in Newark and was raised in nearby



People walk past a large image of Whitney Houston displayed on the side of the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J., Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012.

East Orange. She began singing as a child at New Hope Baptist Church, where her mother, Grammy-winning gospel singer Cissy Houston, led the music program for many years. Her cousin singer Dionne Warwick also sang in its choir.

Houston's family asked Tuesday that any donations in her memory be sent to the arts-focused public school that she attended as a child and that was named after her in the late 1990s.

In lieu of flowers, they said mourners should donate to the Whitney Houston Academy of

Creative and Performing Arts in East Orange, a school serving students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Houston attended the school as a girl when it was named the Franklin School and was a regular visitor for many years afterward. On Monday, students held an

outdoor service in her memory.

An impromptu memorial for Houston was held Sunday during a sadness-tinged Grammys, with Jennifer Hudson saluting her memory with a performance of "I Will Always Love You." Viewership for the awards show soared over last year by 50 percent, with about 40 million viewers tuning in to the program on CBS.

On Tuesday, a steady stream of well-wishers continued to stop at the New Hope Baptist Church, where the front fence was adorned with dozens of flowers, balloons and oversized cards, some with hundreds of signatures and condolences written on them.

Several people expressed disappointment that a public memorial had not been scheduled. But they also said they understood why the funeral was being kept private.

"Maybe at some point down the road, they might do something," said B.J. Frazier, of East Orange, who said she had performed as a singer with one of Houston's aunts. "But it's like they're saying today, they shared her for a long time and they just want her to themselves for now."

Whitney Houston estate to gain; questions remain

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Whitney Houston's career is getting a post-mortem boost, but it isn't likely to be as big as the one that enriched the King of Pop's estate after his death.

Like the late Michael Jackson, Houston was in the midst of an attempted career revival. She was found dead at age 48 on Saturday in her Los Angeles hotel room on the eve of the Grammys, a stage she once ruled.

It could be weeks before the coroner's office completes toxicology tests that could establish the cause of death.

In an outpouring of grief—and a desire to remember her soaring voice and upbeat personality—Houston's fans have propelled her decades-old recordings to the top of sales charts on iTunes and Amazon.com. Twitter recorded more than 2.5 million Tweets about her within two hours of her death.

Not unlike Jackson's posthumous star turn in the movie "This Is It," Houston will star in a film that is set for release this fall. In addition, dozens of the six-time Grammy-winner's unreleased recordings may someday be released to a public grieving her loss.

"It really is a finite universe of celebrities that are able to transcend their own death to create commercial opportunities," said David Reeder, vice president

at GreenLight, a subsidiary of Corbis Images that helps license the images and work of late icons such as Albert Einstein and Johnny Cash. "People want to remember her back in 1986 at her peak, when nobody was doing it better than she was."

As a former model who crossed racial barriers, Houston's image might find a home with a fashion brand, much like Elizabeth Taylor, who continues to grace fragrances, or Audrey Hepburn, who has been given numerous tributes by clothing companies long after her passing.

If Houston breaks into Forbes' list of top-earning dead celebrities in 2012, she will likely get in "towards the bottom end" with single-digit millions of dollars, Reeder said. Michael Jackson dominated the list in 2010 and 2011, after his death three years ago.

Mark Roesler, chief executive of CMG Worldwide, a company that collects licensing revenue for the estates of Marilyn Monroe, James Dean and others, said fans will be looking to fill the hole Houston left behind on the eve of music's biggest night.

"For all those reasons, it creates a situation where people feel like something's been taken away from them," he said.

There are no signs that Houston made savvy investments like "the gloved one." Jackson had a

50 percent stake of one of the world's largest music publishing catalogs, Sony/ATV. Houston was known for her voice, but not for songwriting, which can generate lucrative revenue from years of radio play.

Consider that many of her top-selling songs were written by others. "I Will Always Love You" was a song that Dolly Parton wrote and sang in 1974. "I Wanna Dance With Somebody" (1987) was written by George Merrill and Shannon Rubicam and "Didn't We Almost Have It All" (1987) was written by Michael Masser and Will Jennings, according to the National Music Publishers Association.

Houston's image took a hit after her appearances in the Bravo reality TV show "Being Bobby Brown" in 2005. To many, the documentary series with her ex-husband was a cautionary tale about a drug-fueled lifestyle that damaged her voice and ruined her career.

A hard-partying existence contributed to her failure to fulfill a \$100 million recording deal she signed with Arista, now part of Sony Music Entertainment, in 2001. At the time she was reported to have owed the label six new albums and two greatest hits compilations. Since then, only four have come out, including a greatest hits collection that was not released in the United States.

Message of Appreciation

Buenaventura Cortez Suarez

Also known as "Ben"

July 15, 1943 – January 15, 2012

We would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to our relatives and friends for the untiring support and care during our time of mourning.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to IT&E family, Marianas Resort family, Marianas Trekking staff, Father Nonoy Recaido, Shepherds Choir, Cargo Express, Brillo and Reyes families, Borja Funeral Homes (Saipan), Ada Funeral Crematory (Guam), Suarez' and Jeters' friends, George & Jessie of CUC, Universal Iron Works, and Pacala family.

We also thank our heavenly Father for blessing us with memories and treasured moments with our Father.

We are inviting all our relatives and friends for a nightly Rosary offering in celebration of our Father's forty days starting on Feb. 15 until the 23rd at 8:00 PM at the Jeter residence in As Terlaje.

Your thoughts and prayers are deeply appreciated and you will always be in our hearts and prayers.

Jeter and Suarez Families



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Adventure • Rated PG

Synopsis

The worlds of Jules Verne and Robert Louis Stevenson combine in this sequel to the surprise 2008 3D hit Journey to the Center of the Earth. Richard Outten provides the screenplay for the New Line Cinema film that plans to bring the in-your-face action to the fabled island that became the basis for such books as *Treasure Island* and *Gulliver's Travels*. Dwayne Johnson stars in the movie, with Josh Hutcherson returning to the franchise -- something that original cast member Brendan Fraser opted out of due to scheduling conflicts. Michael Caine co-stars.



Safe House

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Monday thru Thursday	4:20	7:20	

Denzel Washington, Ryan Reynolds
Spy film, Thriller • Rated R



The Descendants

Friday	4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Monday thru Thursday	4:30	7:30	

George Clooney, Shailene Woodley
Comedy, Drama • Rated R



The Woman In Black

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Monday thru Thursday	4:05	7:05	

Daniel Radcliffe, Ciarán Hinds
Thriller, Mystery • Rated PG 13



Chronicle

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Monday thru Thursday	4:10	7:10	

Dane DeHaan, Alex Russel
Thriller • Rated PG 13



The Grey

Friday	4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Monday thru Thursday	4:00	7:00	

Liam Neeson, Frank Grillo
Adventure • Rated R



Underworld: Awakening

Friday	4:25	9:40
Saturday	4:25	9:40
Sunday	4:25	
Monday thru Thursday	4:25	

Kate Beckinsale, Stephen Rea
Horror • Rated R



The Devil Inside

Friday	7:25
Saturday	1:25
Sunday	1:25
Monday thru Thursday	7:25

Fernanda Andrade, Simon Quarterman
Horror • Rated R

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Streep says she enjoys playing difficult women

BERLIN (AP)—Meryl Streep said she has always enjoyed playing difficult women as she presented her portrayal of Margaret Thatcher on Tuesday in Berlin, where she was being honored for her achievements over more than three decades.

Streep, 62, is a double Oscar winner and a strong contender to pick up a third for her role as Thatcher in "The Iron Lady." It already has won her best-actress honors at the Golden Globes and at Britain's BAFTAs.

"I do like difficult women, or at least the ones that are difficult to understand—I do like translating them," she told reporters at the Berlin International Film Festival.

In her acting, Streep said, "I find ... what's like me in this person, and I've been lucky in tracking a number of different characters that have qualities that I recognize in myself."

"I won't identify the ones that coincide with Margaret Thatcher's," she added.

Streep said she learned a lot that surprised her about Thatcher, the divisive conservative leader who reshaped Britain as prime minister between 1979 and 1990, in making the film—notably in that some of her positions were at odds with those of U.S. conservatives.

"I had made decisions about



AP
Actress Meryl Streep holds the Honorary Golden Bear for her lifetime achievement during the awarding ceremony at the 62 edition of the Berlinale, International Film Festival in Berlin Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012.

Margaret Thatcher since I was a liberal left-wing actress as a young woman," she said. "I from New York."

had a knee-jerk reaction to her Streep said that Thatcher

"was a feminist whether she liked it or not—she opened doors for women."

"When I grew up, there were no women presidents of corporations, very few got into law school, medical school ... there was a certain ceiling," she added. "That has changed, and it's changed because of women like Margaret Thatcher, who just put their head down and went ahead."

The Berlin festival awarded Streep an honorary Golden Bear, the event's top award, for the achievements of a career in which she has appeared in more than 40 films and picked up 17 Oscar nominations. It is screening "The Iron Lady" and six older Streep movies out of competition.

Festival director Dieter Kosslick described her as "a brilliant, versatile performer who moves with ease between dramatic and comedic roles."

Streep said she was "very, very honored" to get the prize—though she said that, after such a long career, it is a challenge "to be new, to be fresh, to surprise yourself and other people."

"It's a weird life, an acting life, because you don't have any sort of goal," she said.

"I think if I'd set a goal, all I'd do is disappoint myself."

Jolie hopes her film draws notice to Syria

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)—Angelina Jolie on Tuesday premiered her film "In the Land of Blood and Honey" in Bosnia, where the fictional tale of a romance between a Bosnian Serb man and a Bosnian Muslim woman has shone a spotlight on the ethnic anger still left over from the country's brutal conflict.

Jolie, who arrived in Sarajevo with partner Brad Pitt to attend the screening, greeted the crowd of 5,000 in Bosnian, before acknowledging in English that it would bring back painful memories of the bloody 1992-95 war. As the film ended to a standing ovation, Jolie tearfully said, "To share this with you means the world to me."

At an earlier press conference, Jolie said the movie was "heavy" but that she was happy with it because it shows what horrors can occur in the absence of a timely intervention.

She said she hoped the film could serve as a "wake-up call" for the international community to pay more attention to atrocities and act to prevent them—including in Syria.

"I am satisfied with what we made, I feel very strongly about it and I believe that its core issue—which is the need for intervention and need for the world to care about atrocities when they are happening—is very, very timely and especially with things that are happening in Syria today," she said.

The film, which has already been released in the U.S. follows what happens when the man becomes an army officer and the woman is held in a military prison camp where rape occurs. Some Serbs have accused the film of demonizing them.

"I think it is very important that this film is out at this time and ... if this film points the finger at anybody it is the international community," she said.

The distributor in the Serb part of Bosnia said he won't show it there because it portrays Serbs as the villains and they wouldn't put up with that.

"There is simply no interest for this movie here, so I can't sell any tickets," Vladimir

Ljevar told The Associated Press. "The fact that the Serbs are the bad guys in it is the reason why there is no interest. The film is lousy. I watched it. It has had bad reviews. It is unprofitable."

But Jolie rejected the claim that her film was anti-Serb.

"I understand that it's sensitive," she said. "But I also know that the Serbian people are intelligent and open-minded people. They will know the difference between what's been forced upon them and what they feel in their own hearts."

She said that "although it's difficult, I hope that they see intention behind it."

Jolie noted she worked on the plot with people from both sides of the conflict.

"We were trying to find humanity on all

sides and yet we were addressing the horrors of something that we felt we must show in a horrific way," Jolie said. "That is not an easy balance to find in such a sensitive subject matter, so we did our best; that was very hard, the politics of this region are very complicated."

Thousands of women were raped during Bosnia's war, which also included the notorious Srebrenica massacre in July 1995 and the 44-month siege of the capital, Sarajevo. Most of the rape victims were Muslim Bosniak women, often the target of mass rape used as a weapon of terror.

Many of the victims were raped repeatedly. Some were brought back to their homes and dumped in front of their husbands. Other women were violated in their husbands' presence as part of a shock campaign.

Defying the unofficial censorship in the Serb part of the country, Ana Vidovic, a Bosnian Serb woman from Prijedor organized a private screening in her home Saturday after she got approval from Jolie.

She told local media she was annoyed by claims there is no interest in the movie among Bosnian Serbs. "I am the public and as far as I remember, nobody asked me," she said.

Jolie said Vidovic's gesture meant very much to her team, so she wrote her a letter and approved the screening.

"We will do that for anyone who wants to have a private screening. And we hope that we encourage the people to see it somehow," Jolie said.

A group of Muslim Bosniaks who now have returned to their homes in the Serb part of the country say they are interested in seeing Jolie's movie and plan to organize private screenings.

Jolie said she made this film because "I just felt that this subject was important and I was really moved by it."

She said she may direct again.

"If I can find something that means as much to me, I will try, but if this is the only thing I ever directed, I would be very happy."



AP
US actress and director Angelina Jolie, addresses journalists during press conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012. She is in Sarajevo for the screening of her film 'In the Land of Blood and Honey.'

Fourth 'Transformers' shapes up for Bay to direct



In this publicity image released by Paramount Pictures, Optimus Prime is shown in a scene from "Transformers: Dark of the Moon." AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Director Michael Bay plans a fresh take on shape-shifting robots with the fourth installment in his "Transformers" franchise.

Paramount Pictures announced Monday night that Bay will return to direct the next chapter in the blockbuster

sci-fi series, due in theaters June 29, 2014.

Bay's third movie based on the Hasbro toy line, "Transformers: Dark of the Moon," came out last summer and took in \$1.1 billion worldwide.

The studio's announcement said the next "Transformers" will be a new take—which

probably is necessary since star Shia LaBeouf said last summer that he would not return for a fourth movie. Bay's production team will be back, though, including Steven Spielberg as executive producer.

The "Transformers" sequel is part of a two-picture deal

for Bay at Paramount. First, he'll direct Mark Wahlberg and Dwayne Johnson in the crime tale "Pain and Gain," based on a true story about Florida bodybuilders involved in extortion, kidnapping and murder.

Filming on "Pain and Gain" is expected to start this spring.

Miranda Lambert questions Chris Brown performances

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country singer Miranda Lambert doesn't get why controversial R&B star Chris Brown was allowed to perform twice at the Grammys on Sunday.

She tweeted on Monday: "He

beat on a girl...not cool that we act like that didn't happen."

Brown beat up then-girlfriend Rihanna the night before the Grammys in 2009. He pled guilty to an assault charge and was sentenced to five years of

probation and six months of community labor.

Lambert suggested Brown listen to her song "Gunpowder & Lead" about avenging domestic violence and "be put back in his place. Not at the

Grammys."

She attended the Grammys in Los Angeles with husband Blake Shelton who was a double nominee. Lambert joins a slew of others who questioned the move on social networks.

The Grammy-winning singer is known for hits including "The House That Built Me" and "White Liar."

A message left seeking comment from a representative of Brown's wasn't immediately returned.

Regis Philbin to guest star on 'Hot in Cleveland'

NEW YORK (AP)—Regis Philbin might no longer be a staple on morning television, but he'll soon appear in prime-time on "Hot in Cleveland."

Philbin along with Joan Rivers, Rhea Perlman, Andy Richter and Kevin Nealon are all slated for guest appearances on the TV Land comedy.

The show, now in its third season, stars Valerie Bertinelli, Jane Leeves and Wendie Malick as friends who take an unexpected detour to Cleveland, Ohio, while on a trip to Paris and end up moving to the Midwest city permanently.

Betty White plays their feisty caretaker.

The sitcom has become known for its roster of guest stars including Ed Asner, Rick Springfield, Kristin Chenoweth and Susan Lucci.

"Hot in Cleveland" airs Wednesdays at 10 p.m. Eastern time.



In this July 31, 2006 file photo, Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputy James Mee speaks to a reporter, as he arrived at his home in Calabasas, Calif. AP

Deputy who arrested Gibson settles bias case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The deputy who arrested Mel Gibson for drunken driving and later claimed he suffered religious discrimination at work settled his lawsuit Tuesday against the Sheriff's Department.

Attorneys for James Mee said a \$50,000 settlement was reached and must be approved by a county claims board. A trial scheduled to begin this week was canceled.

Mee, who is Jewish, claimed his superiors discriminated against him after arresting Gibson in 2006. Gibson had appeared in a public service announcement while building close relations with the department.

"Deputy Mee did not file his lawsuit for money, but he filed his lawsuit for the principle of what happened to him and he strongly believed in his case," his attorney Etan Lorant said.

Sheriff Lee Baca's spokesman Steve Whitmore said the department acknowledged no wrongdoing in the settlement.

"The sheriff has no issues with the settlement," Whitmore said. "It was purely a business decision."

Mee pulled over Gibson in Malibu in 2006 and claims his supervisors forced him to remove anti-Semitic comments made by the actor at the time from a report.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Stars join Queen Elizabeth II to celebrate Dickens

LONDON (AP)—Movie stars were among those who joined Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in celebrating the 200th anniversary of Charles Dickens' birth. The queen and her husband, Prince Philip, hosted a reception at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday evening for a group of guests that included the writer's great-great-grandson, Mark Dickens. The monarch greeted actors including "Johnny English" star Rowan Atkinson and "X-Files" actress Gillian Anderson. Anderson recently played Miss Havisham in a BBC adaptation of "Great Expectations." Earlier, the royal couple attended a performance that featured scenes and best-known characters from Dickens' work.

NJ flags to fly at half-staff for Whitney Houston

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie says he will order flags flown at half-staff at state government buildings Saturday in memory of Whitney Houston. The governor says Houston was a "cultural icon" who belongs in the same

category in New Jersey music history as Frank Sinatra, Count Basie and Bruce Springsteen. He says her accomplishments were "a great source of pride for the people of the state." Her funeral will be held the same day in her birthplace of Newark.

'Valley of Dolls' co-composer Previn Shannon dies

SOUTHFIELD, Mass. (AP)—Dory Previn Shannon, who helped pen the score for the film "Valley of the Dolls" and the theme for "Last Tango in Paris," has died. She was 86. According to her husband, Joby Baker, Previn Shannon died Tuesday of natural causes at her farm in Southfield, Mass. She earned Oscar nominations in the 1960s for writing lyrics alongside Andre Previn's music for the films "Pepe" and "Two for the Seesaw." She and Previn were married from 1959 to 1970. She won an Emmy Award in 1984 for co-writing the theme song for the TV show "Two of a Kind." She sang at Carnegie Hall, wrote a libretto for Mozart's opera "The Impresario" and recorded many albums, including "Reflections in a Mud Puddle" and "Mythical Kings and Iguanas."

Motorists in the wrong find ways to make things right

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: "Mild-Mannered Motorist in Virginia" (Dec. 26) asked you for a hand signal to indicate "I'm sorry" to fellow drivers when he makes mistakes behind the wheel. Not long ago, I made a not-so-serious mistake that angered another driver. When I flashed a peace sign, then moved my mouth in an "I'm sorry," the person's frown changed to a smile. We then drove on with pleasant attitudes, and I tried to watch my driving more closely.

The peace sign, of course, is hand closed, forefinger and middle finger up as in a "V." I think the whole world recognizes a peace sign. It worked for me.

FAITHFUL READER IN ARKANSAS

DEAR FAITHFUL READER: I assured "Mild-Mannered" that my helpful readers would step forward to offer suggestions for an "I'm sorry" signal. And many, like you, mentioned giving the peace sign. Offering more options, my newspaper readers comment:

DEAR ABBY: We New Yorkers have honed silent signals to a fine art. When I'm at fault in traffic or other situations where I can't apologize verbally, I make eye contact, put my hand to my chest to accuse myself, and put my hands in a prayerful gesture to ask forgiveness. This almost always defuses the situation on the spot. Add a smile and you've made a friend as well.

LORNA, IN THE CITY

DEAR ABBY: I, too, have made boo-boos while driving and wish I could have said "I'm sorry," but the person is usually too busy shaking a fist and screaming what are obviously obscenities to notice. I like the idea of a standard "sorry" gesture.

How about holding one hand up with your palm toward your face for just a second? (As in "I'm ashamed of what I just did.") It's simple and lets you keep your other hand on the wheel.

CAROL IN HOUSTON

DEAR ABBY: Why not use the American Sign Language symbol for "sorry"? Make a fist with your right hand, palm toward the body and place it over the area of your heart and move it in small circles. Of course, the expression on your face pulls it all together. Sign language is used by many people, and the chance that the person you offended may already be familiar with this sign makes it a great way to convey the sentiment.

SIGN USER IN OLD LYME, CONN.

DEAR ABBY: If I think the other driver will be able to see me, the gesture I make after a mistake is an exaggerated, slow smack to my forehead—basically, my own Homer Simpson "Doh!"

IN THE WRONG IN MAINE

DEAR ABBY: "Mild-Mannered Motorist's" letter reminded me of an incident a few years ago. Driving home from work, I was forced to swerve into an oncoming lane by a car driven by a young woman who was pulling onto the road from a parking lot. She didn't see me because of traffic in the lane to my right. Fortunately, there were no oncoming vehicles, and I was able to return to my lane and proceed.

At the traffic signal, I noticed the "offending" car was directly behind me. It continued following me and I started becoming concerned that I had a stalker. Turning into my neighborhood, I quickly drove up my driveway and into my garage. When I got out of the car, the young woman was walking up the driveway. She then began profusely apologizing for having caused a problem for me.

She had driven miles out of her way to offer her apology, which I gratefully accepted. Then we both thanked God for protecting us. I have never seen her again, but I hope she knows I respect her tremendously.

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Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Lin hits game-winner as Knicks beat Raptors



TORONTO (AP)—Even after his amazing week, this one took Linsanity to a whole new level. Against Toronto on Tuesday, it was Lin for the win!

Knicks sensation Jeremy Lin made a tiebreaking 3-pointer with less than a second to play to cap his finishing flurry of six straight points and New York rallied to beat the Raptors 90-87, extending its winning streak to six games.

"I'm just glad it went like this so we can calm the Linsanity down," cracked Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni.

No chance of that. The NBA's first American-Taiwanese player, Lin scored 27 points and added a career-high 11 assists in his first game since being named Eastern Conference player of the week.

"He continues to impress every night," New York's Jared Jeffries said. "Every game he plays better, he does more and more to help us win basketball games. You can't ask any more of a kid coming into this situation."

While he's the one standing in the spotlight, Lin said sharing success with his teammates is as big a reward.

"It's not because of me, it's because we're coming together as a team," Lin said. "We started making these steps earlier but we were still losing close games and so obviously it wasn't fun. But when you win, that solves a lot of problems. We've been winning and we've been playing together."

Making just his fifth career start, Lin had no hesitation in taking the decisive shot.

"I'm thankful that the coach and my teammates trust me with the ball at the end of the game," he said. "I like having it at the end of the game. I'm just very thankful."

The season-high crowd of 20,092 roared as Lin shot over Jose Calderon and drained a pull-up jumper from the top with half a second to play, giving the Knicks their first lead since the opening quarter.

D'Antoni declined to call timeout before Lin's winning shot, saying it would only give the Raptors time to draw up their defense. Even so, D'Antoni was impressed with the calm and confidence Lin showed in letting the clock run down.

"You just watch and you're in awe," D'Antoni said. "He held it until five tenths of a second left. He was pretty confident that was going in, no rebounds, no nothing. That ball was being buried."

Toronto's Rasual Butler airballed his attempt at the buzzer as the Knicks swarmed their newest hero at center court.

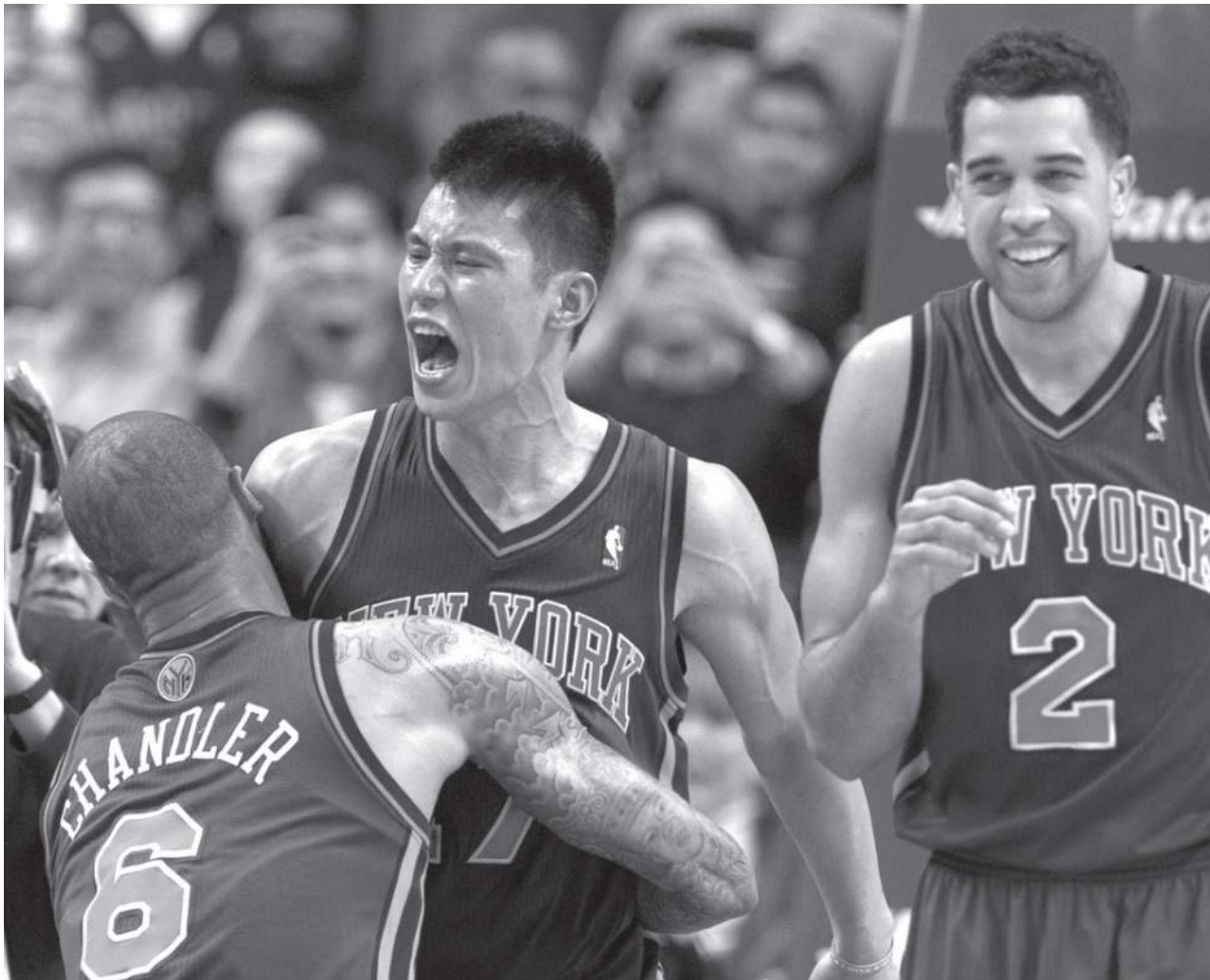
"The kid made a great shot," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said. "(Calderon) had to give him space or he was going to give up a driving path and (Lin) made a tough shot."

But Casey was left steamed at his team's failure to hold a lead, especially after the Raptors made nine turnovers in the final quarter.

"It should not have come to (Lin's) play," Casey said. "We had some many boneheaded plays to get to that play and to make that play relevant. We should have taken care of business before that."

Amare Stoudemire returned from a four-game absence with 21 points and Tyson Chandler had 13 for New York.

Calderon scored 25 points, Linas Kleiza had 15 points and 11 rebounds, and DeMar DeRozan scored



New York Knicks guard Jeremy Lin (17) celebrates with teammates Tyson Chandler and Landry Fields (2) after his game-winning 3-pointer against the Toronto Raptors in an NBA basketball game in Toronto on Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012.

14 for the Raptors.

Up 75-66 to start the fourth, Toronto widened its lead with a three-point play by Barbosa before the Knicks stormed back with a 10-0 run, cutting it to 78-76 and forcing the Raptors to call timeout with 6:22 remaining.

Kleiza stopped the run with a driving layup, Amir Johnson added a hook shot and, after Lin made one of two from the line, Barbosa's layup made it 84-77 with 4:49 to go.

Toronto led 87-82 with less than two minutes to go when Iman Shumpert stole the ball from Calderon and drove in for an uncontested dunk. After a missed shot, Lin completed a three-point play, tying it at 87 with 1:05 left.

Barbosa missed a 3 for Toronto and, at the other end, Shumpert missed a jumper but Chandler grabbed the rebound. Lin took the ball near midcourt and let the clock run down to 5 seconds before driving and pulling up against Calderon to launch the decisive shot, touching off the latest instance of Linsanity.

"(Calderon) was trying to push me left," Lin said. "He was giving me a little bit of space. I just tried to take it down as low as I could. I figured it's probably not going to be possible to get to the basket with the help that they had."

Calderon was surprised to see Lin pull up for the game-winner.

"I thought he was going to drive," Calderon said. "That's why I tried to give him his left hand but he made a great shot."

Calderon was held scoreless in the final quarter, with D'Antoni crediting Shumpert for keeping the Toronto guard in check.

"He did a great job," D'Antoni said. "Shump got on Calderon and changed up everything."

The Raptors had a photo of Lin on their team website in the hours before the game, and his visit generated major interest among Toronto's Asian community, estimated at over 280,000 people, or more than 11 percent of the

local population. The Chinese Canadian Youth Athletics Association and the Taiwanese Canadian Association of Toronto both sent groups of almost 300 fans as Toronto sold out for the second time in 13 home games. One group of fans in the upper deck wore white T-shirts spelling out his name.

Not all the fans were so positive: Lin was booed several times throughout the game.

Local media also took note; some 75 reporters and 16 cameras packed a Tuesday morning press conference to hear Lin speak, with dozens more turned away to prevent overcrowding. More than 25 Chinese Canadian journalists were due to cover the game, including one who presented Lin with a book of "Year of the Dragon" stamps from Canada Post and asked him to record a message in Mandarin, which he did.

Even D'Antoni was shocked by the size of the throng upon walking in Tuesday morning for his turn at the microphone.

"Are we in the playoffs now?" D'Antoni joked as he made his way to the front of the room.

It was Calderon, coming off a career-high 30 points in Sunday's loss to the Lakers, who was hot early, scoring 12 points in the first as the Raptors led 28-21 after one. Lin missed his first shot and didn't score until a driving layup with 3:46 left in the first. He had four points and four assists in the opening quarter.

Lin turned the ball over on three straight possessions early in the second and Toronto took advantage with a 6-0 run, widening its lead to 13 points. He also missed a running bank shot as the half ended as the Raptors took a 47-36 lead into the break.

Stoudemire scored seven points and Lin had six points and four assists as the Knicks scored 30 points in the third, but still trailed 75-66 heading into the fourth.

Heat 105, Pacers 90

In Indianapolis, the Miami Heat became

the first NBA team in 33 years to win three straight road games in as many days as they beat the Indiana Pacers.

Miami is also the first club in 42 years to win each of the three by double digits. Phoenix was the last to win three in a row on the road in consecutive days, in 1978-79. Milwaukee was the last team to win all three by at least 10 in 1970-71.

LeBron James scored 23 points and nearly produced his first triple-double in 11 months, while Dwyane Wade had 16 points for the Heat, which limited Indiana to just 6 of 23 from the field in the first quarter and not much better until the closing minutes.

David West's 14 points led the Pacers, who suffered a fourth straight loss. Even worse, they lost leading scorer Danny Granger with a sprained ankle in the first quarter and he did not return.

Thunder 111, Jazz 85

In Oklahoma City, James Harden scored 22 points as Oklahoma City beat Utah for the second time in five days.

Kevin Durant added 21 for NBA-leading Oklahoma City, which had a rest in between the two games, while Utah was playing its only set of three straight games for the season, and has lost the first two.

The well-rested Thunder never trailed and led by at least 12 throughout the second half on their way to an eighth straight home win, extending the team's longest such streak since moving from Seattle in 2008.

Russell Westbrook chipped in 16 points for Oklahoma City.

Al Jefferson led the Jazz with 15 points.

Lakers 86, Hawks 78

In Los Angeles, Pau Gasol scored seven of his 20 points in the final 5:20 and grabbed 13 rebounds as Los Angeles beat Atlanta.

Andrew Bynum had 15 points and 15 rebounds for the Lakers, who returned

from a 3-3 road trip and improved to 12-2 at home—compared to 5-10 away. Kobe Bryant, whose jumper in the final 5 seconds beat Toronto on Sunday, finished this one with only 10 points in 34 minutes on 5 for 18 shooting.

The Hawks shot just 34.4 percent in the opener of a five-game trip. Jeff Teague led them with 18 points.

Bulls 121, Kings 115

In Chicago, the hosts saw their 19-point fourth-quarter lead sliced to just two before steady and defeating Sacramento.

Luol Deng came through with 23 points and a career-high 11 assists while Joakim Noah added 22 points and 11 rebounds for the Bulls, who were without injured star Derrick Rose for a third straight game.

The victory clinched the Eastern Conference coaching spot at the All-Star game for the Bulls' Tom Thibodeau.

DeMarcus Cousins led Sacramento with 28 points and 17 rebounds.

Grizzlies 93, Rockets 83

In Memphis, Mike Conley scored 21 points to lead Memphis over Houston.

Conley scored seven points in the final 2:26 after the Rockets had trimmed what had been a 15-point lead in the third quarter to 84-79 with three minutes left.

Conley answered with a 3-pointer following a scramble for a loose ball under the Grizzlies basket for an 87-79 advantage.

Rudy Gay added 20 points and eight rebounds for Memphis.

Kyle Lowry led the Rockets with 24 points.

Nuggets 109, Suns 92

In Denver, the hosts broke open a close game in the third quarter to see off undermanned Phoenix.

Arron Afflalo scored 20 points and Ty Lawson had 17 for the Nuggets, who snapped a five-game home losing skid.

Markieff Morris had 21 points for the Suns, who rested starters Steve Nash and Grant Hill.

Spurs 99, Pistons 95

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, San Antonio overcame a spirited Detroit rally to beat the Pistons for its eighth consecutive victory.

Detroit trailed by 15 in the fourth quarter but came back to take the lead behind Ben Wallace, the veteran big man who set a record by appearing in his 1,055th career game—the most for an undrafted player since the NBA-ABA merger.

The Spurs finally took the lead for good on Tony Parker's driving layup with 1:13 remaining.

Tim Duncan had 18 points and 13 rebounds for San Antonio.

Wizards 124, Trail Blazers 109

In Portland, Nick Young scored a season-high 35 points as Washington beat Portland.

John Wall added 29 points and nine assists for the Wizards, who put together their best game of the season, shooting 60 percent from the field and 52 percent on 3-pointers. Young was 7 of 8 from behind the arc.

Nicolas Batum tied a career high with 33 points for the Blazers, who lost All-Star LaMarcus Aldridge to an ankle injury early in the game.

Rams hire Les Snead as new general manager



ST. LOUIS (AP)—The St. Louis Rams have hired Les Snead as their new general manager, bringing in another front-office veteran as they try to get out of the NFL cellar.

Snead spent the past 13 years with the Atlanta Falcons, the last three as director of player personnel. The Rams announced his hiring on Tuesday and planned an afternoon news conference.

The Rams are in the midst of an overhaul after winning just 15 games the past five seasons. They have the second overall pick in April's draft after going 2-14 last season.

The Rams have already hired a new coach in Jeff Fisher. He replaces Steve Spagnuolo, who was fired along with general manager Billy Devaney after going 10-38 in three seasons.

Snead oversaw college and pro scouting efforts for the Falcons, and the team said he played a key role in evaluating not just talent but the salary value of all player acquisitions. Before he arrived in Atlanta, he worked in pro scouting for the Jaguars from 1995-97.

Snead is a former tight end for Auburn, and he later was an assistant for the Tigers. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in education.

Fisher, who was hired after some serious input from owner Stan Kroenke, contends there is a strong core to build around as the Rams try to improve. Fisher agreed to a five-year contract worth a reported \$7 million per season, and insisted on a list of about two dozen items, including the makeup of the coaching staff and front office.

He and Snead have a lot of



St. Louis Rams head coach Jeff Fisher, right, listens to new general manager Les Snead speak during an NFL football news conference introducing Snead, Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012, in St. Louis.

work to do.

The franchise has averaged three wins per season under Scott Linehan, interim coach Jim Haslett and Spagnuolo, a far cry from the "Greatest Show on Turf" days that included a trip to the Super Bowl back in 2000.

St. Louis was considered a franchise on the rise after making a six-win improvement in 2010 and playing for the NFC West title in the finale. Instead, the Rams flopped in 2011, playing a brutal schedule and hampered by injuries.

The Rams haven't had a winning

season since 2003, and they had the NFL's worst offense last season.

Besides that No. 2 draft pick, the Rams do have a handful of Pro Bowl-caliber talents including quarterback Sam Bradford, running back Steven Jackson, defensive end Chris Long and

linebacker James Laurinaitis.

Bradford was the top overall pick in 2010 and was the NFL offensive rookie of the year, although last year he missed six games with a high left ankle sprain and threw only six touchdown passes.

Hanging over the Rams are questions about the franchise's future in St. Louis.

The St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission unveiled a plan Feb. 1 that calls for \$124 million in improvements to Edward Jones Dome in hopes of making sure the city doesn't lose another NFL team.

The Rams' lease with the commission requires the dome to be "first tier," or among the top 25 percent of all NFL stadiums in several categories. If it falls short, Kroenke can move the franchise after the 2014 season.

The Rams have until March 1 to accept or reject the commission offer. They can also make a counterproposal. Arbitration would begin June 15 if no agreement is reached, and the arbitration process could last through the end of the year.

Report: Irsay to meet with Manning in next week

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—According to Colts owner Jim Irsay, Peyton Manning will decide whether he plays another game for Indianapolis.

Irsay expects to meet with Manning in the next seven days, and the owner told The Indianapolis Star on Tuesday the return of the four-time MVP depends on his willingness to restructure his contract.

Manning has spent the past five months recovering from his third neck surgery in less than two years, and there have been conflicting reports about how much progress he has made.

The Colts owe Manning a \$28 million roster bonus by March 8. They want to use the No. 1 pick in this year's draft on Manning's successor, and the future of their star QB will affect how much room they'll have under the salary cap.

Manning turns 36 in March.

"We can make it work if he wants to be here," Irsay told the newspaper. "We'd be excited to have him back and finish his career with us."

"I want him to be able to make the choice. We would love to have him back here if he can get healthy and we can look at doing a contract that reflects the uncertainty of the ... healing process with the regeneration of the nerve."

The Colts went 2-14 last season without Manning, who started every game in his first 13 seasons in the NFL. He threw for 33 touchdowns and a career-high 4,700 yards in 2010, when Indianapolis went 10-6 and won the AFC South.

Manning guided the Colts to a win in the Super Bowl after the 2006 season.

Also Tuesday, the Colts completed their coaching staff by hiring eight assistants and making Clyde Christensen quarterbacks coach.

First-year head coach Chuck Pagano already hired Bruce Arians as offensive coordinator and Greg Manusky as defensive coordinator.

Retired NFL players still seeking better benefits

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The group of NFL retirees that was a part of the labor talks during the lockout last year has not given up their push for better post-career care.

The money they helped gain for their fellow former players was less than what they believe they were promised, and they're eager to argue their case in court.

"I'm going to fight 'em to the end," said Hall of Fame guard Joe DeLamielleure, one of 47 ex-players who signed on as plaintiffs in the lawsuit filed in federal court against the NFL Players Association. They've alleged the current players illegally overreached by determining the retiree share of the \$10-billion-a-year business without them.

U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson will hear oral arguments Wednesday in St. Paul, Minn., from both sides. The union has motioned to have the case dismissed. Spokesman Carl Francis said the NFLPA won't comment on the lawsuit. The union's response to the complaint was filed under seal.

Michael Hausfeld, the lead attorney for the retired player group led by former Minnesota Vikings defensive end Carl Eller, insisted his clients aren't trying to make a money grab. Eller said they've estimated between \$300 and \$500 million in additional benefits they were promised in the early stages of CBA talks and didn't get.

Their contention is they were pushed out of negotiations to streamline the mediation process despite a court order

for their inclusion. Those talks last summer led to a new collective bargaining agreement for the owners and players and saved the 2011 season.

"The retirees don't begrudge the present players any income they merit, but at the same time they don't feel it was appropriate for the current players to essentially shortchange the retirees," Hausfeld said.

The NFL's new "Legacy Fund" is an additional \$620 million carved into the new CBA to go toward pension increases. Current payments to retirees or beneficiaries were bumped up to at least \$600 per month. Players over 55 already receiving pensions were given a benefit credit, an extra \$124 per season for those accrued prior to 1975 and an additional \$108 per season for those played between 1975 and 1992.

Overall, including the "Legacy Fund," an extra \$1 billion was set aside in the new CBA to improve benefits, league spokesman Greg Aiello said.

Hausfeld's firm also filed a concussion-related lawsuit on behalf of more than 100 former players last month against the NFL in Philadelphia federal court, alleging negligence and minimization by the league toward head-injury risk in the game. Commissioner Roger Goodell said during Super Bowl week the NFL "will not quit" helping "retired players, the current players and future players by making the game safer."

There is a palpable bitterness that has existed toward modern players from the retirees that has existed for decades.

Lawyers for the retired players referred in the complaint to a 2010 quote

from New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees that described some of the retirees as coming to the current players and asking them to "please make up for my bad judgment." Brees cited divorces, bad business decisions and an unwillingness to work after football as reasons for financial struggles of some of the former players.

Eller acknowledged that perception his group has tried to overcome among the current players.

"A lot of us did make bad decisions. We had our chance. We had our day at the park. I know that I certainly made bad decisions, but the point is that players today are still making bad decisions. And they're making millions of dollars. So what I'm saying is let's work together to minimize those decisions," Eller said.

DeLamielleure was less diplomatic.

"I wish we could do football stuff instead of all this legal-beagle stuff. If we did this stuff when we were playing football, we'd kick their butt and take 'em to the woodshed," he said.

DeLamielleure, who blocked for O.J. Simpson with the Buffalo Bills during the 1970s as a six-time Pro Bowl pick over 13 NFL seasons, said the pension increases still aren't enough. He and his wife of 40 years both work. They had four children, adopted two more and raised three others.

"We built this league for all these guys to have a good profession," he said.

One problem retired players have had is a lack of unification of their agendas. There are several groups that

exist to organize and serve former NFL players, including Eller's Retired Players Association.

The Gridiron Greats Assistance Fund, for which DeLamielleure is an advisory committee member, is another group. It's a nonprofit designed to provide financial assistance and coordinate social services for those ex-players in the direst of needs—down to shelter, food and health care. Baltimore Ravens center Matt Birk is one of the current players who've gotten involved.

Birk said he's "not big into the legal battles" but he said he understands why Eller and his supporters are so fired up about the issues.

"When you feel like the game's kind of turned its back on you, it's tough," Birk said. "I think that's why you see a lot of the dirty laundry being aired. It's an emotionally charged issue."

Birk, a 14-year veteran, said he learned as he got older how critical post-career care can be given the physical toll the sport takes on the body. He said he was startled to hear some of the stories of struggling Hall of Fame players who had trouble paying their basic bills.

"I was like, 'Wow, we're not taking care of these guys?'" Birk said. "You start realizing you're going to be retired someday. I think that's the thing you try to convey to today's players, but it's really difficult to do. When you're playing and you're 23, 24 or 25, you think you're bullet proof, but that's not always the case. As soon as you're retired it doesn't matter how good you are and how many records you set."

SSHS blanks MHS2 in soccer

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Saipan Southern High School Lady Mantas Rays roasted Marianas High School's Junior Dolphins (MHS2), 4-0, in Tuesday's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization girls soccer match at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The win lifted the Lady Rays' win-loss-draw record to 3-1-2, locking them into second place in the standings. Winless MHS2, meanwhile, absorbed its sixth straight loss.

SSHS' Marielle Gariguez's second hat trick of the season highlighted the contest.

She netted a swift goal just about five minutes after the kick-off via a free kick by means of a handball by the Lady Dolphins.



SAIPAN SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL'S MIKKY VARGAS BREAKS LOOSE UP THE MIDDLE IN TUESDAY'S MISO GIRLS SOCCER MATCH AGAINST MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL'S JUNIOR LADY DOLPHINS ON THE OLEAI SPORTS COMPLEX FIELD.

MHS2's defense did a good job holding off the star forward after the early score, but Gariguez remained patient and twice found the back of the net late in the opening fame during

the 25th and 33rd minutes of the 35-minute half.

Gariguez tended to the goal after the pause, but her teammate Mikky Vargas penetrated through a mob of MHS2 de-

fenders for another quick hit in the 5th minute of the second to half put some icing on the cake.

The last game of the regular season kicks off today at 4:30pm with the top-ranked MHS varsity squad (4-0-1) being hosted by the Kagman High School Lady Ayuyus (2-2-1).

In addition, the single-elimination playoffs will then take place on Friday starting at 2pm with MHS1 taking on MHS2 at 2pm followed by SHS against KHS at roughly 3:15pm.

Then the third place consolation match is set for 9am on Saturday morning immediately followed by MISO's championship match; contrary to previous reports, Tinian High School will not be joining in on the action this season.

SIS1, GCA notch wins anew in girls volleyball

The Lady Eagles of Grace Christian Academy and Saipan International School's varsity Lady Geckos (SIS1) continue to flex their muscles over the competition after conclusion of the co-leaders' respective Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization girls volleyball matches last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

GCA outclassed SIS' Junior Lady Geckos (SIS2) in three sets, 25-10, 25-18, and 15-4; while SIS1 recovered from its first loss of the season—to none other than the Eagles last Thursday—with a sweep over some feisty Lady Ayuyus out

of Kagman High School, 25-8, 25-17, and 15-13.

The two frontrunners remain miles ahead in first place with identical records of 10-1. SIS2 fell to a 5-6 slate, while KHS now has four wins with seven defeats.

The season continues tomorrow at 4pm with KHS squaring off against SIS2 on the north end with MHS' second-ranked varsity crew (9-2) hosting SIS1 on the south end. SSHS, GCA, and MHS2 are all on byes and will be credited with wins due to two teams pulling out of the competition. Six teams remain in the field. *(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)*

CSA final grounds rules meeting today



The Chamolinian Softball Association is holding its final ground rules meeting for the 3rd Annual Budweiser Slow Pitch Softball League season at 6pm today in the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

This is a mandatory meeting for all managers and coaches as official ground rules will be discussed. League officials will also pass out important team roster and waiver forms at this time.

Opening day for the 2012

season is set for Feb. 24 at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

So far 10 of the 15 men's teams have already be confirmed, however there are 12 groups still interested in filling the five remaining slots.

The first five teams to pay in full will be included in the competition.

Meanwhile, four of the five women's teams are already accounted for with confirmation of the final squad expected in the coming days.

The opening ceremony will commence at 6pm next Friday

followed by last year's defending champions Man Amigos taking on a randomly selected opponent at 6:30pm.

Then another men's match and a women's pairing will be on tap later in the evening. All matchups will be randomly selected on opening day, after which the teams will find out their respective game schedules.

For more information, contact Mark Palacios at 322-7444 or Liz Palacios at 287-8869. *(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)*

RENATA

From Page 28

who clocked in at 3:08:10 and dropped to third behind Austria's Carina Wasle (3:06:33).

"Sometimes it is good not always to win. It helps to keep you on the ground. Shonny is my friend and I was happy for her win. Now, I am said she is not coming this year,"

Vanlandingham decided to skip next month's race to continue her rehabilitation after undergoing a knee surgery late last year, leaving Bucher, Wasle, CNMI pro Mieke Carey, and newcomer Jacqui Slack of United Kingdom to battle for the women's championship.

Bucher said the race will still be difficult even without Vanlandingham with Slack debuting in next month's event, Wasle returning, and Carey getting stronger.

"A lot of things can happen in this tough race," said Bucher, who is coming off a break in Switzerland and is now in Australia getting ready for a tournament.

"I had good break back home in cold Switzerland and did just one cyclo cross race [Swiss Champs] and finished fourth. Next weekend, I will race in a long distance event here in Australia as a first form test to see where I'm with my training and where I still have to work," Bucher added.

The 34-year-old triathlete is in Wollongong, New South Wales and training with Slack and fellow XTERRA pro Ben Allen. From the Land Down Under, Bucher and company will go to Guam (XTERRA Guam/March 10) and then in Cebu, Philippines (XTERRA Philippines/March 18) before heading to Saipan for the March 24 event.

The Lucerne native, who is now racing for a new team—the Tempo-Sport-exersciences—will stay on Saipan for another week to compete in Tagaman Triathlon. Bucher also had a sub par showing in last year's Tagaman, coming in at fourth place (2:38:55) behind champion Suzie Snyder (3:20:41), Carey (3:27:30), and Wasle (3:28:55).

TRENCH

From Page 28

we get back on our feet," stated Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez in an email on Monday.

Not much survived the flames other than a pair of wrestling mats, a pair of shin guards, and some weights. Basically anything that was not made out of metal was melted and warped by the flames.

"Although we are saddened by

the loss of our gym and equipment, we remain upbeat and determined to move forward. We all remain intact and focused on building back up better and stronger," added Alvarez.

Alvarez also expressed a deep thanks on behalf of the Trench Tech family to all of the individuals who donated their time to the clean up effort to John Aguon for graciously donating some much-needed sparring equipment.

Aguon is a big mixed martial arts fan that was no longer using

his equipment. He donated some pads, mitts, weights, belts, and ropes to the team after hearing about the group's misfortune. Alvarez is also awaiting some more fight gear that he acquired himself in the coming weeks.

Notably, Alvarez's main focus is diagnosing the condition of the octagon cage. According to Alvarez the main structure of the cage is still intact. However, the canvas and padding were melted and the fencing was warped by the blaze.

"We are going to disassemble it and see what we can do to repair the cage. The octagon is vital in order for us to hold events, and although I have a full plate in front of me, fixing the cage is my main priority," said Alvarez over the phone on Tuesday.

As of now the upcoming Rites of Passage 12: Unstoppable MMA event is not cancelled, but has been put on hold until organizers determine whether or not they have everything needed in place to put on a

successful show, as scheduled.

Trench Tech may opt to substitute a boxing ring for the next event, but nothing has been confirmed.

ROP 12 is slated for March 16 at the Saipan World Resort.

Moreover, Alvarez is also looking into both short- and long-term plans for the new Trench Tech Gym. He has been shopping around pricing various warehouses as possible locations, but fixing the cage and trying to salvage the upcoming event remain higher on

the "too much" to-do list.

Trench Tech's gym hours and fees will remain the same. Boxercise classes take place from 6pm to 7pm on Mondays, Tuesday, Thursdays, and Fridays for \$25 a month, while MMA Live sessions are scheduled from 7pm to 8pm on Mondays and Tuesdays and from 5pm to 8pm on Wednesdays for \$35 a month. Saturday MMA sessions are also taking place from 11am to 2pm for fighters only.

HALL

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meeting early this month clarified that although a selection committee has been created, NMASA member-sports federations can still nominate individuals to the CNMI Hall of Fame. He added that the committee was formed just to give

individuals not affiliated with any NMASA member associations, but made significant contributions to CNMI sports the recognition they deserve. In the past, only NMASA member-groups are allowed to nominate individuals to the Hall of Fame.

NMASA started inducting athletes/officials to the select company in 2004 with Bill and

Jean Sakovich, Tony Rogolifoi, and Mike Villagomez making the list first and were later joined by the late Irene Alpet, Tony Satur, Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios, Kurt Barnes, Cecilia Lisua, Jose Tenorio Sablan, Ricardo Duenas, Antonio Benavente, Jess Wabol, Frank Castro, Jeff Race, and Tino Olopai.

The CNMI Hall of Fame was created in 2003 through

House Bill 13-113, introduced by Reps. Daniel O. Quitagua, Ramon A. Tebuteb, and Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero.

NMASA banquet today

Meanwhile, the NMASA Annual Sports Banquet will take place today at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

The ceremony starts at 6pm

and monthly awardees and officials of NMASA-affiliated associations are invited to attend the annual event.

NMASA will honor the top coaches, teams, athletes, and officials in the awards ceremony for their significant performance in 2011. Winners of the Male and Female Athletes of the Year and TSL Foundation Student Athletes of the

Year came from the monthly awardees.

Last year, tennis' Christian Miller and athletics' Lia Rangamar took the student plums, while sprinter Yvonne Bennett and swimmer Rezne Wong claimed the adults awards. Baseball's Rogolifoi was named 2010 Coach of the Year, while Olopai was inducted to the CNMI Hall of Fame.

3 JAPANESE

From Page 28

will duel the Ehime University Junior Team, while it will be the turn of the Ehime University Senior Team to face the CNMI strikers on March 6.

"We are very fortunate to have these visiting Japanese

teams. They are top teams and will give our players good tune-up games. Also, having these teams will give CNMI soccer fans an opportunity to watch great matches," Northern Mariana Islands Football Association general secretary Ed Salas said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

"We hope to can get a full complement of spectators to watch the friendly games," he added.

The Japan Soccer College is an institution based in Niigata, the northwest coast of Honshu. According to its website, the college is "the school specializing in all aspects of soccer from playing, training, and coach-

ing to soccer business." The website added that individuals enrolled in its soccer program trained under Niigata Alibrex pros and classes are limited to only 65 players. The Niigata Alibrex plays in the J1. Students, who must enroll in the school for three years, are also allowed to play in the Singapore Professional League.

The women's and trainer's program, on the other hands, are limited to 10 and 25 individuals, respectively, and are also a three-year course with both J1 League and Singapore Pro League pro trainers handling the program. The coaching and officials specialist program is a two-year course and gives individuals C-class Professional

Soccer Coaching and Refereeing Certification from the Japan Soccer Foundation.

Meanwhile, Ehime University players are from the island of Shikoku. Ehime University has four campuses (Johoku, Tarumi, Shigenobu, and Mochida) and a very active football group composed of local and international players.

2011 MDX Inter-Village Friendship League Playoffs

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



San Antonio/Gene's Barber's Pedro Castro goes for a layup against As Lito/Chow Queen defenders during their title game in the 2011 MDX Amateur Radio Club Inter-Village Friendship League Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.



San Antonio/Gene's Barber's Nikko Salem pulls up for a jumper.



As Lito/Chow Queen's Zack Babauta grabs the rebound.



San Roque's Noel David, right, drives and draws a foul on San Antonio/Gene's Barber's Nikko Salem.



San Antonio/Gene's Barber's Adrian Palacios looks for a teammate to pass the ball to as he is guarded by an As Lito/Chow Queen defender.



San Antonio/Gene's Barber's Jed Villanueva pulls up for a baseline jumper.



Susupe/MDX's Martin Moreno tries to save the ball from going out of the baseline, while San Vicente Saints' Luiz Reyes looks on during their playoff game.



As Lito/Chow Queen's Sheen Metran, center, fakes off the defense of San Antonio/Gene's Barber's Pedro Castro, right.



As Lito/Chow Queen's Mel Capalad goes up for a fall away jumper.

Activity Schedule for February 16, 2012




8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
(Morning practices)

6:30 PM to 9:30 PM
(Evening practices)



There are no
scheduled events.



2012 Men's B Futsal League

6:00 PM
CTSI Puzakals
vs. News Makers

7:00 PM
Shirley's vs. Docomo



**Rams hire
Les Snead
as GM**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Lin hits
game-winner
as Knicks
beat Raptors**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Renata aims to reclaim XTERRA crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

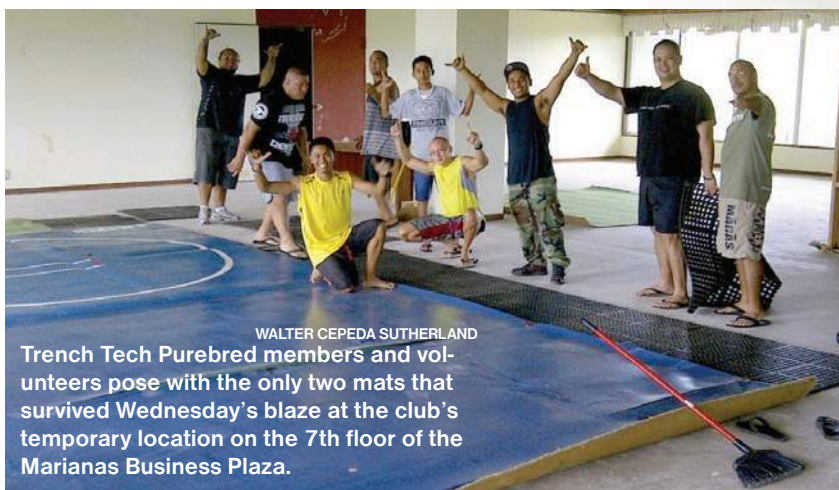
Six-time XTERRA Saipan Championship winner Renata Bucher will be in seventh heaven if she regains the Crown Jewel this year.

"This race means a lot to me. When I look back it was hard for me not to be the XTERRA Saipan queen anymore," Bucher said in a message to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.



streak snap at six last year when she lost to American pro Shonny Vanlandingham, who won XTERRA Saipan for the first time. Vanlandingham timed in at 3:01:09, about seven minutes ahead of Bucher,

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Trench Tech Purebred members and volunteers pose with the only two mats that survived Wednesday's blaze at the club's temporary location on the 7th floor of the Marianas Business Plaza.

Trench Tech relocates to Marianas Business Plaza

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

After its gym burned down back last Wednesday, Trench Tech Purebred Promotions is in the process of rebuilding and has temporarily relocated to the 7th floor of the Marianas

Business Plaza in Susupe.

"We want to give a big shout out to Erick Van Der Maas, owner of 360 Restaurant and some adjacent MBP office space, for generously giving us a place to use free of charge for a couple of months while

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3 Japanese teams vs CNMI strikers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Three Japanese soccer squads are coming over to Saipan to challenge the CNMI Men's National Team in a series of friendly matches at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

First up for the Commonwealth strikers are a selection from Japan Soccer College. The CNMI bets and JSC players will collide on Feb. 4 at 6pm. Then on Feb. 28 and March 2, the host

See 3 JAPANESE on Page 26



The CNMI's Arkie Resaura, center, dribbles out of his Guam defender during the Marianas Cup in 2010 at the Oleai Sports Complex Field, which will be the venue for the Commonwealth strikers' friendly games against three Japanese teams.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Hall of Fame selection committee formed

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Northern Mariana Amateur Sports Association has created a selection committee for the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame.

The committee, composed of Tony Rogolifoi, Kurt Barnes, Jeff Race, Elias, Rangamar, and Rose Igitol, is given the right to nominate individuals to the elite list of CNMI athletes/officials.

NMASA president Michael White during the association's

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Renata Bucher negotiates the Sound of Music trail during last year's XTERRA Saipan Championship.

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